

A

SERMON

Presentation

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Theme:

How Proverbs and the Gospel help us fight Slothfulness

Preacher:

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Audience:

XICF

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OUTLINE:

- **Diagnosing Slothfulness**
- **Why fight slothfulness?**
- **What Jesus says ?**
- **Fighting slothfulness with wisdom from proverbs**
- **Theology of work as remedy**
- **The gospel as solution to overcoming slothfulness**



Introduction

Proverbs 1:1-7(ESV)

1 The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:

2 **To know** wisdom and instruction,
to understand words of insight,

3 **to receive** instruction in wise dealing,
in righteousness, justice, and equity;

4 **to give prudence** to the simple,
knowledge and discretion to **the youth**—

5 Let the **wise** hear and **increase in learning**,
and the one who understands obtain guidance,

6 **to understand** a proverb and a saying,
the words of the wise and their riddles.

7 **The fear of the LORD** is the **beginning of knowledge**;
fools despise wisdom and instruction

Slothfulness, Meaning Of The Word

- disinclination to action or labor
- spiritual apathy and inactivity. [*Ref:merriam-webster*]
- unwillingness to work or make any effort
[*Ref:Cambridge*]

Slothfulness—Sluggishness—laziness (in the book of Proverbs)
Connote same meaning in the KJV

WHAT THE DIAGNOSIS SAYS?



Proverbs 26:12-14(KJV)

¹² Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

¹³ The sluggard says, “There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!”

¹⁴ As a door turns on its hinges,
so does a sluggard on his bed

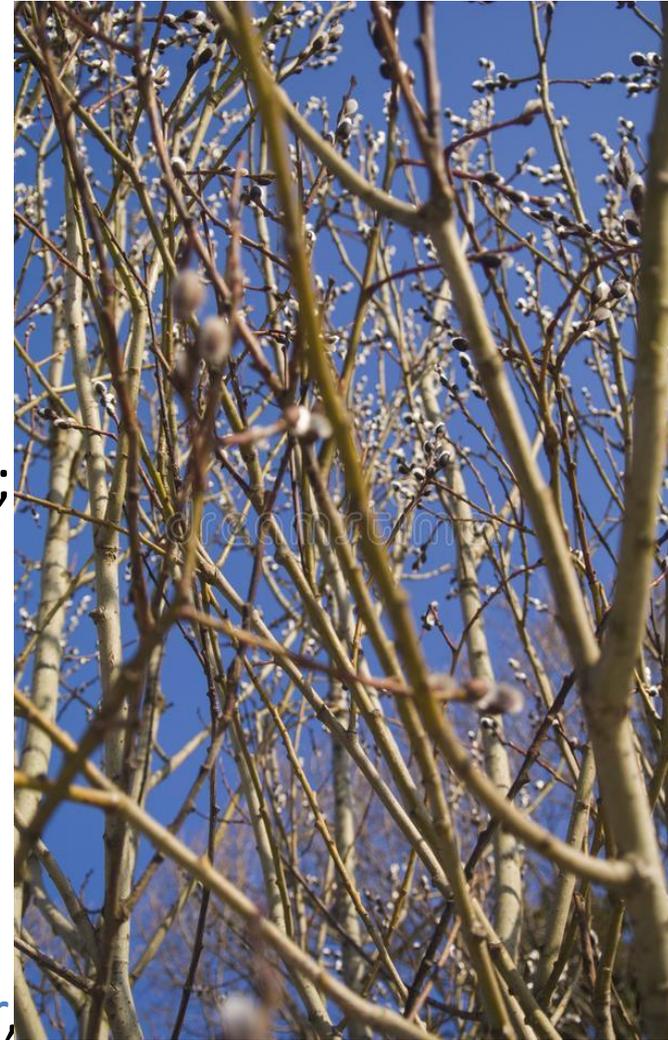
Prob 1:20

WHAT THE DIAGNOSIS SAYS?

How we get there!

Proverbs 24:30-34(ESV)

³⁰ I passed by the field of a **sluggard**,
by the vineyard of a man **lacking sense**,
³¹ and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns;
the ground was covered with nettles,
and its stone wall was broken down.
³² Then I saw and considered it;
I looked and **received instruction**.
³³ **A little sleep**, a **little slumber**,
a little folding of the hands **to rest**,
³⁴ and **poverty** will come upon you like **a robber**,
and **want like an armed man**



Consequences of being slothful

1) Slothfulness abhor diligence and results in debt

12:24 The hand of the diligent will rule,
while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

2) Slothfulness denies us true satisfaction of our desires

12:27 Whoever is slothful will not roast his game,
but the diligent man will get precious wealth.

3) Slothfulness wastes resources and opportunities

18:9 He also that is slothful in his work is brother to
him that is a great waster.

Consequences of being slothful

4) Sluggishness makes us mindless and bring us to want.

Proverbs 19:15,24(ESV)

19:15 Slothfulness casts into a **deep sleep**, and an idle person will **suffer hunger**.

19:24 The sluggard **buries his hand in the dish** and will not even bring it back **to his mouth**

Proverbs 21:5(ESV)

21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone **who is hasty** comes only to **poverty**.

Consequences of being slothful

5) Excuses and fear fuel slothfulness

Prob 22:13 (ESV)

22:13 The sluggard says, “There is a lion outside! I shall be killed in the streets!”

WHAT DOES JESUS SAY?

The Parable of the talent

Mathew 25:14-30

- No excuse to slothfulness in the kingdom of God, because we all receive proportional ability(verse 15)
- Fear fuels slothfulness (verse 25)
- Slothfulness is unfaithfulness to God's gift to us
- Fight slothfulness with faithfulness by investing in our gift and talents(verse 26)
- Slothfulness can eventually leads us to loose our joy or advantage in the kingdom of God(verse 21,23)

cf. 2Cor 5:20

Remedy for slothfulness

1) Wisdom from the ways of the Ant

Proverbs 6:4-11(ESV)

- ⁴ Give your eyes no sleep
and your eyelids no slumber;
- ⁵ save yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter,
like a bird from the hand of the fowler.
- ⁶ Go to the ant, O sluggard;
consider her ways, and be wise.
- ⁷ Without having any chief,
officer, or ruler,
- ⁸ she prepares her bread in summer
and gathers her food in harvest.
- ⁹ How long will you lie there, O sluggard?
When will you arise from your sleep?
- ¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest,
- ¹¹ and poverty will come upon you like a robber,
and want like an armed man.



Remedy for slothfulness

What we learn

- The Ant has self-leadership mastery
- The Ant is industrious/hardworking
- Understand seasonal preparation
- Attitude of saving
- Good resource manager



Remedy for slothfulness

2) The Right Theology of Work (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:1-3)

- God designed us to work as imitation of His character
- We were designed to work as expression of our obedience of God's command
- Our work is central to fulfilling our unique purpose as extension of God's
- When our work, approached as calling and executed with Christ-exaltation focus, it bring rest to God

Remedy for slothfulness

Right motivation to work that fights slothfulness

- ✓ Our working should be guided by a heart of service that esteems the fear of God.
- ✓ We ought to do all our work wholeheartedly as worship to God
- ✓ We ought to expend our energy, gifts etc. as service to Christ
- ✓ We will be rewarded with unperishable inheritance if our work focus on serving the Lord Christ

Colossians 3:22-24 KJV

²² Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; ²³ And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and **not unto men**; ²⁴ **Knowing** that of the Lord ye shall **receive the reward** of the inheritance: for ye **serve the Lord Christ**.

Remedy for Slothfulness

3) Victory through the gospel of grace

Titus 2:11-14 (ESV)

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Remedy for slothfulness

What we learn

- God's grace through Salvation trains us and produces in us power to **fight all ungodliness including slothfulness.**
- Power of grace through the blood of Jesus save us from **slothfulness as dead works (Heb 9:14)**
- The gospel produces in us the grace for purposeful living with a kind of zealous heart that can quench slothfulness with passion from service unto God **(Rom 12:11)**

Concluding Remarks

Romans 12:11(ESV)

“Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit,
serve the Lord.”



SMALL GROUPS IN FOCUS

- A. WHAT AREAS IN YOUR LIFE OR RELATIONSHIPS CAN YOU IDENTIFY SLOTHFULNESS?
- B. HOW HAS BOOK OF PROVERBS HELP YOU BETTER UNDERSTAND SLOTHFULNESS?
- C. HOW CAN WISDOM FROM PROVERBS AND THE POWER OF GOD'S GRACE THROUGH THE GOSPEL HELP YOU FIGHT AND OVERCOME ?