

The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 30

*Take this Bible Study home and use it to
guide your exploration of the scripture passages
that will be the basis of the sermon next week.*

**Topical Series: Wisdom in Work, Wealth
and Decisions**

This Week's Key Passage: Proverbs 6:6-11

Sermon Date: April 27, 2008

Honor God with Diligence and Hard Work.

Did you know that Christians are obligated to be diligent in their work? God intends that Christians be good citizens and not a burden to others. Thus we are obligated to be diligent in our work and to work hard so that we are not a burden to others or to our government.

However, we all go through set-backs in our careers and the church is there for those that do go through these difficult times. How do we find that balance between our careers, providing for our families and spending time with those we love the most?

The Bible speaks about the benefits of hard work in Proverbs but it also speaks about entering God's rest, such as in Genesis 2:3 where it tells us that God rested on the seventh day of creation. How do we put these all into perspective? Let's look together at the verses for this week and see what the scriptures say about these important areas of our lives.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have.

The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>Key Text: Proverbs 6:6-11 NIV</p> <p>6:6 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!</p> <p>6:7 It has no commander, no overseer or ruler,</p> <p>6:8 yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.</p> <p>6:9 How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?</p> <p>6:10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-</p> <p>6:11 and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>10:2 Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death.</p> <p>10:4 Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.</p> <p>10:5 He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.</p> <p>10:26 As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is a sluggard to those who send him.</p> <p>12:11 He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment.</p> <p>12:24 Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor.</p> <p>12:27 The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>22:29 Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men.</p>	
<p>24:30 I went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment;</p>	
<p>24:31 thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins.</p>	
<p>24:32 I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw:</p>	
<p>24:33 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-</p>	
<p>24:34 and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.</p>	
<p>26:14 As a door turns on its hinges, so a sluggard turns on his bed.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>13:4 The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.</p>	
<p>14:23 All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.</p>	
<p>18:9 One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.</p>	
<p>19:15 Laziness brings on deep sleep, and the shiftless man goes hungry.</p>	
<p>19:24 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he will not even bring it back to his mouth!</p>	
<p>20:13 Do not love sleep or you will grow poor; stay awake and you will have food to spare.</p>	
<p>21:25 The sluggard's craving will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work.</p>	
<p>22:13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside!" or, "I will be murdered in the streets!"</p>	

4. What lessons about life can you find in Proverbs 6:6—6:11? What does this passage teach us about “self-discipline”?

5. Looking over the set of verses on pages 2-5, compare and contrast the consequences to be experienced by the sluggard/lazy man as compared to the consequences experienced by the diligent/hard working man. List some of them here:

Sluggard’s Consequences:

Diligent Man’s Consequences:

6. Proverbs 30:24-25 speaks about the ant being small but extremely wise because they prepare today for the future. Compare this with Mathew 6:28-34 where scripture tells us not to worry about our life, what we will eat or drink. How can you reconcile these two teachings?

7. Review Proverbs 10:4-5, 12:11 and Proverbs 20:4, As Christians, how can we lovingly deal with people around us who end up in hardship due to their own laziness or failure to “save for a rainy day” when they could have? What experiences have you had with such situations?

8. The sluggard seems to sleep and rest too much. How did Jesus balance his “work of doing God’s will” and his times of rest? What can we learn from that? Consider Genesis 2:2, Exodus 20:8-11, and Hebrews 4:9-11.

9. Read the parable of the talents (Mt 25:14-30). What are some ways in which you are sometimes a bit lazy in using the time, talents, and resources God has entrusted you with? How about in your spiritual responsibility to “go and make disciples” – how diligent are you in this? What is one way you could work on being more diligent this week?

Memory Verses

Proverbs 10:2

^{10:2} Ill-gotten treasures are of no value,
but righteousness delivers from death.

Proverbs 26:14

^{26:14} As a door turns on its hinges,
so a sluggard turns on his bed.

Have you ever thought about entering God's rest? Matthew 11:28-30 says: " ²⁸Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

By his example in Genesis to the examples of Jesus with the disciples when he went away from the crowds of people to find rest and take time for refreshment, the Bible shows us that it is God's desire that we should take time to find rest for our physical bodies and refreshment for our souls. Of course the ultimate rest is the rest we will gain in Heaven sharing eternity with God.

Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no use to them, because those who heard it did not combine it with faith. Now we who have believed enter that rest ... (Hebrews 4:1-3a)

Do you know how to find that rest? It begins with accepting Jesus as you Lord and Savior. Take time right now to ask God to forgive you of your sins and ask Jesus to become Lord of your life and then Jesus will help you find that rest that is spoken of in Matthew 11:28.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon and can be picked up from the table at the back of the sanctuary and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>.

*Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact **studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com***

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