

October 14, 2012
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Selected Scriptures

“Wisdom and the Work-shy” (The Sluggard)

I. Characteristics

II. Consequences

III. Corrections

Discussion Questions:

1. What is a “sluggard”? What synonyms come to mind? Why would Solomon devote so many Proverbs to this one issue? Why would this be such an important topic to teach to a young man?
2. Why do you think Solomon uses humor to make some of his points about the sluggard? Is his point that laziness is funny? If not, what is the value of using humor? How might it make a person more receptive to very convicting truth?
3. One motto of the sluggard is “Never do today what you can put off until tomorrow.” Why is procrastination a bad thing? Do you ever struggle with procrastination? Please don’t put off answering the question!
4. The sluggard starts a lot of jobs but doesn’t finish very many of them. Is this a problem for you? If so, why? If not, how have you overcome this tendency?
5. The sluggard is the master of rationalization. Obviously laziness is not equated with intelligence because the sluggard in Proverbs has a very quick mind to make excuses. What are some excuses we might make for procrastinating? What are some negative consequences of procrastination?
6. The sluggard loves a life of ease (the path of least resistance). What are some ways we might fall into this lifestyle? What is wrong with this lifestyle? How might some people (including television preachers) devise a new theology to support this lifestyle? What does the Bible have to say about this? (i.e., hard work, discipline, sacrifice, etc.)
7. Sluggards require supervision and constant prodding to get the job done. What should motivate us to work hard and do a job excellently even when the boss isn’t looking?
8. Read Prov. 6:10-11; 10:4; 12:24; 13:4; 13:15; 15:19; 20:13; 21:17. What are some of the consequences of a lazy lifestyle?
9. How does Proverbs recommend a person overcome their lazy ways? What applications can you make from this to your own life?
10. How might a “workaholic” still be a sluggard?
11. If you could just put forth a little more effort in specific areas of your life for the better, what is ONE THING that would change your:
 - Physical well-being
 - Financial well-being
 - Relationship with God
 - Marriage
 - Ministry
12. How is your laziness negatively impacting our church? Read 1 Cor. 15:58; Col. 1:28-29; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; 2 Tim. 2:1-10; 1 Pet. 4:10-11. What will you do differently this week to be a better steward of the time, talents, and treasures the Lord has entrusted to you?