



Sermon Notes

April 20, 2008
Tim Strickland

Where Your Treasure Is... #10
The Sluggard and the Diligent
Various Passages

Proverbs 19:24

The sluggard buries his hand in the dish
and will not even bring it back to his mouth.

Proverbs 20:4

The sluggard does not plow in the autumn;
he will seek at harvest and have nothing.

Proverbs 12:27

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

Proverbs 14:23

In all toil there is profit,
but mere talk tends only to poverty.

Genesis 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Proverbs 13:4

The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing,
while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

Romans 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

2 Thess. 3:10-12 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. [11] For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. [12] Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

Introduction

Today: **"The Sluggard and the Diligent"**, Message #10 in "Where Your Treasure Is", a series about God, money & you

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1. Getting to know "The Sluggard"

- a. His laziness knows no bounds – Proverbs 26:13 & 15
*The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road!
There is a lion in the streets!"
The sluggard buries his hand in the dish;
it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth.*
- b. He loves his sleep – Proverbs 26:14
*As a door turns on its hinges,
so does a sluggard on his bed.*
- c. He will come to poverty – Proverbs 20:4 & 24:33-34
*The sluggard does not plow in the autumn;
he will seek at harvest and have nothing.
A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest,
and poverty will come upon you like a robber,
and want like an armed man.*

2. Getting to know "The Diligent"

- a. He is a hard worker – Proverbs 10:4-5
*A slack hand causes poverty,
but the hand of the diligent makes rich.
He who gathers in summer is a prudent son,
but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.*

Note

- God established work before the fall – Genesis 2:15
 - Work became much harder after the fall – Gen. 3:19
- b. He patiently plans before acting – Proverbs 21:5
*The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance,
but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.*
 - c. He will have plenty – Proverbs 12:11
*Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread,
but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of
poverty.*

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3. Who best describes you "The Sluggard", or "The Diligent"?

- a. The Lord condemns laziness and commands work – 2 Thess. 3:11-12
For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. [12] Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.
- b. We need to be diligent in all areas of life, not just our jobs.
- Personal walk with God
 - Family Life
 - Church Life
 - Jobs

4. The Sluggard and the Diligent in the Spiritual Realm

- a. Growth in Christ requires work on our part
- **Prov 13:4** *The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.*
 - **1 Tim. 4:7-8** *Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; [8] for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.*

Note:

- Salvation is a free gift from God. There is no work we can do to earn salvation. The work we are talking about today relates to our growth in Christ, not to our salvation.
- b. Serving Christ requires work on our part
- **1 Cor. 15:58** *Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*
 - **Ephesians 2:10** *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*
 - **Luke 19:13b** *Engage in business until I come*
- c. Are you spiritually diligent, or spiritually lazy?
- Never forget that our work for Christ must be done in faith, with His strength, not our own

Col. 1:28-29 *Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. [29] For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.*

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Our Response

1. Ask the Lord to transform you into a more diligent person.
2. Work hard for the Lord in whatever you do!

Col. 3:23-24 *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, [24] knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

3. Work hard with the strength of the Lord, trusting fully in Him to work in and through you.

Col. 1:28-29 *Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. [29] For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.*

Questions for Application

1. Describe a time when you were especially diligent and a time when you were especially lazy.
2. What is the difference between working hard and being a workaholic? Is it possible to be a workaholic on the job, but a sluggard in other areas of life?
3. Discuss ways in which you are tempted to be lazy in your life today. Discuss you job, you family life and you spiritual life.
4. Read 1 Timothy 4:6-10. How can we learn to be diligent workers in the Lord?
5. Pray together for one another that the Lord would work in our hearts to make us diligent people in every area of life.

Questions, Comments? - inthebeginning@look.ca

If you have questions or comments about today's message, please drop me an email to the address above. Thanks,

Tim



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