

Idle Conquences Discovered

Hebrews 6:12

That ye be not slothful, but
followers of them who through faith
and patience inherit the promises.

Proverbs 19:24

Some people are so lazy that they
won't even lift a finger to feed
themselves. NLB

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Forward

Idleness implies that there is nothing to be done that is worthy of time or effort. But as long as there are people who are lost without Christ, there is always something to be done.

To combat the tendency to be idle, we should cultivate the habits of prayer, Bible study, meditation, and service.

There is always someone who needs help, prayer, or encouragement. With the internet, we now have limitless ways in which we can fill time with meaningful work.

When our hearts are fully committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we cannot be idle for long because that is not what He would do. Jesus said, “As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work” John 9:4

The Bible instructs us to be “always abounding in the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (Luke 10:2). Anyone who is tempted to be idle should ask himself: What can I do right now to be one of His workers?

Chapter 1

How God looks at Idleness

1 Thessalonians 5:14

We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, and be patient with everyone.

And the people should be at peace among themselves, doing all they can to guard against any differences. But love of peace must not make us wink at sin. The fearful and sorrowful spirits, should be encouraged, and a kind word may do much good. We must bear and forbear. We must be long-suffering, and keep down anger, and this to all men. Whatever man do to us, we must do good to others.

Have a heart to do good.

Proverbs 19:24

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

All our purposes must agree with God's holy will? It is far better to have a heart to do good, and want ability for it, than to have ability for it, and want a heart to it. Those that live in the fear of God, shall get safety, satisfaction, and true and complete happiness.

Indolence, when indulged, so grows upon people, that they have no heart to do the most needful things for themselves.

The hands of the diligent makes rich

Proverbs 10:4

Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

Every day has 24 hours filled with opportunities to grow, serve, and be productive. Yet it is so easy to waste time, letting life slip from our grasp. Refuse to be a lazy person, sleeping or frittering away the hours meant for productive work. See time as God's gift and seize your opportunities to live diligently for him.

The sluggard walks in fear.

Proverbs 22:13

The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside; I will be killed in the streets!"

This proverb refers to an excuse a lazy person might use to avoid going to work. The excuse sounds silly to us, but that's often how our excuses sound to others. Don't rationalize laziness. Take your responsibilities seriously and get to work.

Chapter 2

The consequences Of Idleness

Proverbs 20:13

Do not love sleep, or you will become poor; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with food.

No one is without sin. As soon as we confess our sin and repent, sinful thoughts and actions begin to creep back into our lives. We all need ongoing cleansing, moment by moment. Thank God he provides forgiveness by his mercy when we ask for it. Make confession and repentance a regular part of your talks with God. Rely on him moment by moment for the cleansing you need.

The Idle walk in fear

Proverbs 26:13-16

The slothful man saith, there is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.

As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed.

The slothful hides his hand in his bosom; it grieves him to bring it again to his mouth. The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

The idle become busy bodies.

1 Timothy 5:13

At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention.

Apparently some older widows had been “put on the list of widows,” meaning that they had taken a vow committing themselves to work for the church in exchange for financial support. Paul lists a few qualifications for these church workers—these widows should be at least 60 years old, should have been faithful to their husbands, and should be well known for their kind deeds. Younger widows should not be included in this group because they might desire to marry again and thus have to break their pledge (1 Tim. 5:11-12).

Three out of four wives today eventually are widowed, and many of the older women in our churches have lost their husbands. Does your church provide an avenue of service for these women? Could you help match their gifts and abilities with your church’s needs? Often their maturity and wisdom can be of great service in the church.

Chapter 3

Each one should show diligence

Hebrews 6:11-12

And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Hope keeps the Christian from becoming lazy or feeling bored. Like an athlete, train hard and run well, remembering the reward that lies ahead (Phil. 3:14).

The lazy one is like smoke to the eyes.

Proverbs 10:26

Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the lazy one to those who send him.

The wicked person dreads death. Those who do not believe in God usually fear death, and with good reason. By contrast, believers desire eternal life and God's salvation—their hopes will be rewarded.

The hand of the diligent will rule.

Proverbs 12:24

The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slack hand will be put to forced labor.

Prudent people have a quiet confidence. Insecure or uncertain people feel the need to prove themselves, but prudent people don't have to prove anything. They know they are capable, so they can get on with their work. Beware of showing off. If you are modest, people may not notice you at first, but they will respect you later.

The soul of the diligent will be made fat.

Proverbs 13:4

The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the soul of the diligent is made fat.

You have not mastered self-control if you do not control what you say. Words can cut and destroy. James recognized this truth when he stated, "The tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts" (James 3:5). If you want to be self-controlled, begin with your tongue. Stop and think before you react or speak. If you can control this small but powerful member, you can control the rest of your body.

Chapter 4

The path of the upright is a highway.

Proverbs 15:19

The way of the lazy is as a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.

The “path of the upright” doesn’t always seem easy (Proverbs 15:19), but look at the alternatives. Hatred (Proverbs 15:17), dissension (Proverbs 15:18), and laziness (Proverbs 15:19) cause problems that the upright person does not have to face. By comparison, his or her life is a smooth, level road because it is built on a solid foundation of love for God.

An idle man will suffer hunger.

Proverbs 19:15

Laziness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle man will suffer hunger.

Proverbs 9:14-17

There is something hypnotic and intoxicating about wickedness. One sin leads us to want more; sinful behavior seems more exciting than the

Christian life. That is why many people put aside all thought of Wisdom's sumptuous banquet (Proverbs 9:1-5) in order to eat the stolen food of Folly. Don't be deceived—sin is dangerous. Before reaching for forbidden fruit, take a long look at what happens to those who eat it. (See the chart in Proverbs 21:29.)

The hand of the diligent makes rich.

Proverbs 10:4

Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

Every day has 24 hours filled with opportunities to grow, serve, and be productive. Yet it is so easy to waste time, letting life slip from our grasp. Refuse to be a lazy person, sleeping or frittering away the hours meant for productive work. See time as God's gift and seize your opportunities to live diligently for him.

The sluggard begs during harvest.

Proverbs 20:4

The sluggard does not plow after the autumn, so he begs during the harvest and has nothing.

You've heard similar warnings: if you don't study, you'll fail the test; if you don't save, you won't have money when you need it. God wants us to anticipate future needs and prepare for them. We can't expect him to come to our rescue when we cause our own problems through lack of planning and action. He provides for us, but he also expects us to be responsible.

Chapter 5

Poverty will come as a robber

Proverbs 24:34

Then your poverty will come as a robber and your want like an armed man.

The slack hand will be put to forced labor.

Proverbs 12:24

The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slack hand will be put to forced labor.

The world says to hold on to as much as possible, but God blesses those who give freely of their possessions, time, and energy. When we give, God supplies us with more so that we can give more. In addition, giving helps us gain a right perspective on our possessions.

We realize they were never really ours to begin with, but they were given to us by God to be used to help others. What then do we gain by giving? Freedom from enslavement to our possessions, the joy of helping others, and God's approval.

The soul of the diligent is made fat.

Proverbs 13:4

The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the soul of the diligent is made fat.

God created us, knows us, and loves us. It only makes sense, then, to listen to his instructions and do what he says.

The Bible is his unfailing word to us. It is like an owner's manual for a car. If you obey God's instructions, you will "run right" and find his kind of power to live. If you ignore them, you will have breakdowns, accidents, and failures.

The sluggard's hands refuse to work.

Proverbs 21:25

The desire of the sluggard puts him to death, for his hands refuse to work;

The vineyard of the sluggard is overgrown.

Proverbs 24:30-31

I passed by the field of the sluggard and by the vineyard of the man lacking sense, and behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles; Its surface was covered with nettles, And its stone wall was broken down.

Consequences of Idleness

Proverbs 20:13

Do not love sleep, or you will become poor; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with food.

Matthew 11:28

**Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.**



To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I

accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

Holy Bible: New Living Bible translation.

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print

Verse Concept: Matthew Henry's Concept Bible Commentary.