

Proverbs on Laziness and Diligence

I. The Sluggard's Behaviour

- a) The sluggard loves sleep excessively (26:14, 20:13, 6:6-11)
- b) The sluggard procrastinates (20:4)
- c) The sluggard seldom starts things, and seldom finishes (12:27, 19:24, 26:15)
- d) The sluggard makes excuses not to work (22:13, 26:16)
- e) The sluggard is perpetually disorganised (15:19)
- f) The sluggard is unreliable (10:26)
- g) The sluggard allows what he has to decay (Eccl 10:18)
- h) The sluggard deceives himself through the 'smallness of his surrenders' - (6:9-11)
- i) The sluggard squanders time, money, resources and opportunities. (18:9)

II. The Sluggard's Heart

- a) Greed: for ease (25:16)
- b) Faithless: works only for immediate reward (20:4)
- c) Proud: wants shortcuts to what others labour for (13:4)
- d) Rebellious: kicks against God's order of food for work 21:25; (2 Thes 3:10)
- e) The lazy man forgets/disregards the fact that all he has and is belongs to God and is a stewardship (Matthew 25:26)

III. The Sluggard's End

- a) Hunger (19:15)
- b) Perpetual discontent (21:25)
- c) Unnecessary submission to others - (12:24)
- d) Gradual and Sudden poverty (6:9-11)

IV. The Sluggard's Remedy

- a) Believe the end of the sluggard (24:30-34), and the reward of diligence (13:4; 22:29)
- b) Embrace the laws of God's world (Gen 3:19)
- c) Submit to the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23), and yield your life and body to God (Rom 12:1)
- d) Plan and organise your life (21:4)
- e) Practise self-discipline, do the hardest things before the easier, more pleasant tasks (21:17)
- f) Welcome responsibility (25:13)