

# BOOK OF PROVERBS - III

"Go to the Ant Thou Sluggard"

Pr. 6:6-11

## I. BOOK OF PROVERBS PRACTICAL WISDOM APPLIED TO EVERYDAY LIFE TO MAKE US HAPPIER AND MORE SUCCESSFUL

### II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Sluggard - A habitually lazy or idle person
- B. Slothful - State of being disinclined to work or to exert oneself
- C. Diligent - Persevering and careful in work; hardworking, industrious. Done with careful, steady effort. Painstaking, Syn. - busy

### III. LAZINESS NOT A PART OF NATURE OF GOD

- A. True spirituality comes from being full of the Spirit (nature) of God
- B. If want God to prosper us, must do our part
- C. Diligence produces prosperity and abundance, so laziness produces poverty and want

## IV. GO TO THE ANT THOU SLUGGARD: CONSIDER HER WAYS - PROV. 6:6-11

- A. No guide or overseer
  - 1. Self-motivating
  - 2. Don't need someone standing over them and pushing them; can trust them.
- B. Provides meat in summer and gathers food in harvest
  - 1. Plans ahead
  - 2. Works toward future need
- C. How long will thou sleep, O Sluggard?
  - 1. When wilt thou arise out of sleep?
  - 2. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber; a little folding of the hand.
- D. So shall poverty come as one that travelleth
  - 1. Poverty creeps in
  - 2. Little by little get farther behind in payments
- E. Pr. 13:4 - *"The soul of the sluggard desireth and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat."*
- F. Pr. 20:4 - *"The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold."*
  - 1. Look for any kind of excuse
  - 2. Will not go to any extra trouble; not inconvenience

## V. SIGNS OF LAZINESS

- A. Procrastination (Pr. 24:30-34)
  - 1. Field of slothful
  - 2. Grown over
  - 3. Wall broken down

- B. Doesn't want to work - never rise very high in positions of authority
  - 1. Pr. 19:15 - *"Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger."*
  - 2. II Thes. 3:10 - *"If man doesn't work, then shouldn't eat"*
  - 3. I Tim. 5:8 - *"Don't provide for family, denied the faith..worse than infidel."*
  - 4. Pr. 18:9 - *"He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster."*
  - 5. Pr. 21:25 - *"The desire of the slothful killeth him, for his hands refuse to labor."*
- C. Has no priorities--never plans out his day
  - 1. Path of least resistance
  - 2. Bounces from one thing to another
- D. Best of intentions--tomorrow...never see project through to completion
- E. Pr. 12:27 - *"Slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting."*
  - 1. Never appreciate what they have
  - 2. Too lazy to take care of what he has
  - 3. Never have anything worth owning
    - a. One of these days going to fix this place up, as soon as feel better
    - b. Looking for easy way; looking for handout; something for nothing
- F. Ought to be easier way
  - 1. Get rich quick
  - 2. Land big job or close big deal next week
- G. One tried and true, proven way to prosperity
  - 1. Way of diligence
  - 2. Even gold mine has to be worked

#### VI. THE WAY OF LAZINESS - PR. 15:9

- A. The way of the slothful man is an hedge of thorns
  - 1. Steps from one prick to another...one crisis to another.
  - 2. Hates responsibility - shifts blame
- B. Usually had many jobs in lifetime--never their fault
- C. Has difficulty facing reality
- D. Have pride problem
  - 1. Conceited; real problem is self
  - 2. Never takes blame
  - 3. First step to overcoming spirit of laziness is to quit blaming problems on others

#### VII. EXCUSES FOR LAZINESS - PR. 26:13-15

- A. There is a lion in the way (Pr. 22:13)
  - 1. I would have been to work on time but there was a lion at my front door
  - 2. There was a wreck on the freeway

- 3. Mother had a heart attack
- 4. Excuses designed to make you feel guilty for even asking about lack of attention to work
- B. As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed.
- C. The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.
- D. The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason (know-it-all; often irrational; doesn't stand to reason; often to justify self).

#### VIII. LAZY PEOPLE ARE LONERS

- A. Because of attitude and behavior they don't have close friends
- B. Pr. 18:24 - *"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly."*
- C. If you don't have friends, start working at it (one reason sluggards don't have friends is because they're too lazy to work at it)

#### Scriptures:

Judges 18:9 - *"Be not slothful to go and to enter to possess the land."*

Heb. 6:12 - *"That ye be not slothful but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." (Faith and patience indicates diligence; it takes diligence to wait for the promises.)*

Pr. 12:24 - *"The hand of the diligent shall bear rule--but the slothful shall be under tribute."*

- 1. The diligent will come out on top
- 2. The slothful will become the servant

Pr. 21:25 - *"The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour."*

- 1. Slothful always wanting something great; envious of others
- 2. Because of laziness, will not see desire fulfilled

Mt. 25:26-27 - *"Thou wicked and slothful servant thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore, to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury."*

Rom. 12:11 - *"...not slothful in business, but fervent in spirit."*