

The Sluggard

Selected Proverbs

Titus 2:14

[Christ] gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are *zealous for good works*.

1. He's Hinged to His Bed (6:6-11; 24:30-34; 26:14)

Proverbs 26:14

*As a door turns on its hinges,
so does a sluggard on his bed.*

Proverbs 6:6-11

6 *Go to the ant, O sluggard;
consider her ways, and be wise.*
7 *Without having any chief,
officer, or ruler,
8 she prepares her bread in summer
and gathers her food in harvest.*
9 *How long will you lie there, O sluggard?
When will you arise from your sleep?*
10 *A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest,
11 and poverty will come upon you like a robber,
and want like an armed man.*

Proverbs 24:30-34

30 *I passed by the field of a sluggard,
by the vineyard of a man lacking sense,
31 and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns;
the ground was covered with nettles,
and its stone wall was broken down.*
32 *Then I saw and considered it;
I looked and received instruction.*
33 *A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest,
34 and poverty will come upon you like a robber,
and want like an armed man.*

2. He's Habitually Making Excuses (26:13; 22:13)

Proverbs 26:13

The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road!"

There is a lion in the streets!”

Proverbs 22:13

***The sluggard says, “There is a lion outside!
I shall be killed in the streets!” (22:13)***

He was going to be all that a mortal should be
Tomorrow.

No one should be kinder or braver than he
Tomorrow.

A friend who was troubled and weary he knew, Who'd be glad of a lift and who needed it,
too; On him he would call and see what he could do
Tomorrow.

Each morning he stacked up the letters he'd write
Tomorrow.

And thought of the folks he would fill with delight
Tomorrow.

It was too bad, indeed, he was busy today, And hadn't a minute to stop on his way; More
time he would have to give others, he'd say
Tomorrow.

The greatest of workers this man would have been
Tomorrow.

The world would have known him, had he ever seen
Tomorrow.

But the fact is he died and he faded from view, And all that he left here when living was
through Was a mountain of things he intended to do
Tomorrow.

-- Edgar Guest

3. **He's Hopeless in Completing Simple Things (26:15; 12:27)**

Proverbs 26:15

*The sluggard buries his hand in the dish;
it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth.*

Proverbs 12:27

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

4. **He's Haughty in His Self-Assessment (26:16)**

Proverbs 26:16

*The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes
than seven men who can answer sensibly.*

5. **He's Hungry for Fulfillment (13:4)**

Proverbs 13:4

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

Proverbs 21:25-26a

*The desire of the sluggard kills him,
for his hands refuse to labor.
All day long he craves and craves*

6. **He's Helpless in Trouble (15:19)**

Proverbs 15:19

*The way of a sluggard is like a hedge of thorns,
but the path of the upright is a level highway.*

7. **He's Harmful to Others (10:26)**

Proverbs 10:26

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

NT Contrast

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

1. **Do you have a working faith? (1:2-3)**

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ

2. **Do you work hard at your job and for the advancement of the gospel? (2:9-10)**

For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.

3. Do you have some gospel co-workers? (3:1-2)

Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith.

4. Are you providing an attractive witness at work? (4:10b-12)

But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

5. Are you admonishing the idle and respecting those who labor? (5:12-14)

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

6. Are you following faithful examples that labor at work and for the advancement of the gospel? (2 Thess 3:6-12)

Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

7. Have you grown weary in your labor? (2 Thess 3:13; 2:16-17)

As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. (3:13)

2 Thess 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

