



PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR YOUNG MEN & WOMEN

From the Book of
Proverbs
Part 6



Welcome to MV Bible Studies



Castlewellan 2013





The Sluggard

Characteristics of a Sluggard

(1) The Sluggard is a Procrastinator

- ❖ „Never do today what you can put off until tomorrow“
- ❖ The sluggard is always just about ready to start a job, but not quite
- ✓ 22:13; 6:9-10; 10:5

Characteristics of a Sluggard

- ❖ The Sluggard nearly never finishes a task .
- ✓ 12:27; + hunt an animal, - not roasting it
- ✓ 26:15; + having a meal, - not able to eat
- ✓ 20:4 + sow the seed - not plowed

Characteristics of a Sluggard

(2) The Sluggard is a Rationalizer

- ❖ His mind is working faster than his body
- ❖ There is always a „reason“ for his apathy & inactivity

- ✓ 22:13; 26:13 (potential dangers)
- ✓ 6:10; 24:33 (only a little ...)

Characteristics of a Sluggard

(3) The Sluggard takes the Path of least Resistance

❖ If the sluggard is anything, he is **lazy**

✓ 10:5.26;19:15; 20:13; 26:14



Consequences for the Sluggard

Problems & Pressure

- ✓ 19:15; 6:10-11 (hunger, poverty)
- ✓ 15:19 (plagued with problems)
- ✓ 12:24 (pressure)

The Source for the Sluggard's Problem

(1)The Sluggard is self-seeking

- ❖ Always looking out for number one – himself
- ❖ He has no consideration for anyone else
- ✓ 21:25-26 (⇔ 22:9 29:7 31:20)

The Source for the Sluggard's Problem

(2) The Sluggard is a Pleasure-Seeker

❖ His inability to deny himself of immediate gratification leads to his poverty

✓ 13:4; 21:17

The Solution to the Problem

(1) The Sluggards attention can be gained by pain, pressure & problems

✓ 16:26 (2. Thes 3:10)

The Solution to the Problem

(2) The Sluggard must change his perspective & priorities

- ❖ The gospel of Jesus Christ transforms **parasites to producers**; those who **take** from others to those who **give** sacrificially
 - ✓ e.g. Eph 4:28
- ❖ The greatest goal in life is not to be happy, but to be holy (Christ-like)

The Solution to the Problem

(3) The Sluggard must go to work

✓ 12:11; 14:23; 28:19; 24:27)

Application for the Christian

- Perhaps we all have to admit that we have too much of a sluggard in us when it comes to unpleasant tasks
- Are the symptoms of the sluggard seen in my life when it comes to spiritual duties & obligations?

Spiritual Sluggard

May the primary **reason** for my failure

- ❖ to pray,
- ❖ to study my Bible,
- ❖ to worship,
- ❖ to witness my faith ...

.... be that I am a **spiritual sluggard**?

Consider: 2:1-5; Mt 25:24-27

Spiritually Asleep or Awake?

- “And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* **high time to awake out of sleep**: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed.” Rom 13:11
- “Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore **let us not sleep**, as *do* others; but **let us watch and be sober**. “1.Thes 5:4-6
- Therefore it says, "**Awake, O sleeper**, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Eph 5:11-16

The Workaholic

- ❖ How proud the workaholic might feel. After all, he is not a sluggard, just the opposite. Really?



The Workaholic

- ❖ The term „workaholic“ does not refer to the man or woman who is **diligent at his or her task**.
- ❖ The workaholic is the person who is so **consumed by his work** that he avoids other, more important, obligations



The Workaholic

- ❖ For some becoming workaholics is a socially acceptable way to be spiritual sluggards.
- ❖ If the things we are working hardest at are keeping us from obeying the commands of our Lord, we may be both **workaholics & sluggards**





ANY QUESTIONS?

Proverbs 31: 13.20.27

Pro 31:13 She seeks wool and flax, and **works with willing hands.**

Pro 31:20 She **opens her hand** to the poor and **reaches out** her hands to the needy.

Pro 31:27 She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat **the bread of idleness.**



END