

Healthy Ambition

Proverbs and Ecclesiastes

And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." '

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'" Luke 13:19-20

Three Lessons Solomon Teaches about Ambition

1. A healthy ambition is _____ and should be encouraged.

Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. Proverbs 6:6

Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." John 5:17

That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil—this is the gift of God. Healthy ambition gives us a sense of dignity and fulfillment. Ecclesiastes 3:13

***When we are given a gift, and have the opportunity to do a job well—
there is the satisfaction and a sense of dignity.***

If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5:8

Healthy ambition motivates us to provide for our _____.

A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous. Proverbs 13:22

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. 1 Peter 2:12

Healthy ambition enhances our Christian _____.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24

You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:11

Healthy ambition enables _____.

*Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. **Proverbs 3:9-10***

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Luke 6:38

2. A lack of ambition is _____ and should be resisted.

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*Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth. He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son. **Proverbs 10:4-5***

*Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor. **Proverbs 13:4***

The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

Proverbs 12:24

Characteristics of a Lazy Person

1. Can't get _____ in the morning.

*Laziness brings on deep sleep, and the shiftless man goes hungry. **Proverbs 19:15***

*How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man. **Proverbs 6:9-11***

2. He seldom finishes anything.

The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions.

Proverbs 12:27

3. He is full of _____.

The sluggard says, “There is a lion outside!” or, “I will be murdered in the streets!”

Proverbs 22:13

4. He has a victim's mentality.

The way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.

Proverbs 15:19

5. He is a big _____.

*All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty. **Proverbs 14:23***

6. He has unrealistic dreams.

He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty. Proverbs 28:19

***“The ladder of success is like any other ladder.
Very few have climbed it with their hands in their pockets.”***

7. He gets on people’s _____.

As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is a sluggard to those who send him. Proverbs 10:26

One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys. Proverbs 18:9

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

3. Uncontrolled ambition is dangerous and must be _____.

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The man who fears God will avoid all extremes. Ecclesiastes 7:18

Ambition must be first restricted by our love for _____.

A greedy man brings trouble to his family. Proverbs 15:27

There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. “For whom am I toiling,” he asked, “and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?” This too is meaningless—a miserable business! Ecclesiastes 4:8

***The priority of the family always has to take precedence
over your ambition for things or status.***

Ambition must be subject to our love for _____.

The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward. Proverbs 11:18

Proverbs warns against

- Gaining wealth by treating people with cruelty
- Using dishonest scales
- Employing a double standard
- Changing deeds and altering documents
- Accepting bribes
- Lying
- Exploiting and oppressing the _____
- Charging exorbitant interest
- Showing partiality

A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

Proverbs 22:1

***“Our problem isn’t that we’re too ambitious.
Our problem is that we’re not ambitious enough.
We’re ambitious for the things of this world.”***

He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; Ecclesiastes 3:11

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:12-13

Not that I have already obtained all this... But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12-14

Key: God-given, family, testimony, generosity, sinful, started, excuses, talker, nerves, restricted, family, God, poor