

Overcoming Laziness

Seven Deadly Sins

2 Thessalonians 3 and Proverbs

“Seven Deadly Sins”

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|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Pride | 5. Gluttony |
| 2. Anger | 6. Sloth |
| 3. Envy | 7. Avarice |
| 4. Impurity
(lust) | (extreme
greed) |

And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” **Genesis 2:16-17**

Laziness is a serious sin and every believer is to be industrious in life.

1. Paul warns against idleness in our work.

Paul's warnings against laziness in 2 Thessalonians 3

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us.

2 Thessalonians 3:6

*For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. **2 Thessalonians 3:7-8***

We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “If a man will not work, he shall not eat.”

2 Thessalonians 3:9-10

If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed. Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15

“For obedient saints to treat disobedient Christians with the same friendship they show other dedicated saints—is to give approval to their sins.”

—Warren Wiersbe

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

2. Paul's encouragement to be industrious applies also at home.

Paul's warnings against laziness in 2 Thessalonians 3

“The Sluggard”

The Character of a Lazy Person, as described in Proverbs

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 6:6-8**

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

The Slothful Person is Never Fulfilled.

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

Proverbs 13:4

The sluggard's craving will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work. All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.

Proverbs 21:25-26

The Slothful Person Lacks Strength.

*The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth. **Proverbs 26:15***

The Slothful Person Lacks Prosperity.

*for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags. **Proverbs 23:21***

*I went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins.
Proverbs 24:30-31*

I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: 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 24:32-34

If a man is lazy, the rafters sag; if his hands are idle, the house leaks.

Ecclesiastes 10:18

The Slothful Person Sleeps their Life Away.

Laziness brings on deep sleep, and the shiftless man goes hungry.

Proverbs 19:15

Do not love sleep or you will grow poor; stay awake and you will have food to spare. **Proverbs 20:13**

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

Proverbs 26:14

The Slothful Person

Binges on Knowledge.

(All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.) **Acts 17:21**

Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body.

Ecclesiastes 12:12

The Slothful Person

Poisons Relationships.

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

Proverbs 10:26

The Slothful Person Destroys Society.

Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to.

1 Timothy 5:13

The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who answer discreetly. **Proverbs 26:16**

One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.

Proverbs 18:9

The Slothful Person Never Succeeds.

Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor.

Proverbs 12:24

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

Proverbs 15:19

A sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing. Proverbs 20:4

The sluggard is always full of excuses.

The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside!" or, "I will be murdered in the streets!" Proverbs 22:13

The Sluggard is always in trouble.

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

Proverbs 15:19

The Sluggard is just irresponsible.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us.

2 Thessalonians 3:6

3. Paul's encouragement applies at church.

Paul's warnings against laziness in 2 Thessalonians 3

[Jesus] As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. John 9:4

Work is seeing a need and responding to it.

Just find someone who needs your help and give it.