

PROVERBS: LESSON 12

THE DILIGENT AND THE SLOTHFUL

(Jerry Fite)

INTRODUCTION:

In our study the lazy are identified as the slothful, a sluggard, and those with a slack hand (12:27, 13:4, 10:4).

Proverbs 14:4 lays down the principle that energy and means must be expended before one can gain. In this study we continually see that the diligent know this and act wisely, while the lazy just sit and lose.

I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

- A. The diligent keep and benefit from what they acquire, while the slothful lose what they gain before enjoying its intended benefits (12:27, 19:24, 26:15).
- B. The diligent are motivated (16:26).
- C. The sluggard moves, but never progresses (26:14).
- D. The blessed diligent are the skillful diligent (22:29, 24:27, 12:11, 28:19, 13:11, 21:5).
- E. The sluggard sees only the reasons for not working (20:4, 22:13, 26:13, 15:19, 26:16).
- F. Laziness is kin to destruction (18:9).

II. RESULTS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

- A. The diligent become rich - the slothful become poor (10:4, 19:15, 20:13, 24:30-34, 14:23).
- B. The diligent become rulers - the slothful become slaves (12:24).
- C. The diligent is filled - the sluggard keeps desiring (13:4, 21:25).

III. AFFECTS ON OTHERS

- A. A lazy messenger is an irritating annoyance to the one who sends him (10:26).
- B. The diligent's household will prosper (27:23-27).

QUESTIONS:

1. What two illustrations show that the slothful may have before him blessings yet never be blessed?

2. What motivates the diligent?
What does this imply about the lazy person?
3. To what is the movement of the lazy compared ?
4. What **two** proverbs illustrate the principle that the blessed diligent are not just active?
5. What **three** things do the lazy see that impedes their work or progress?
6. How is slack work kin to a destroyer?
7. Slothfulness casteth into a _____, _____, and leads to _____ .
8. What **two** things did the wise man see when he looked at the sluggard's vineyard?
9. What did the wise man conclude from this observation?
10. What principle does the diligent know that causes him to remain diligent?
11. Is the statement: "Hard work can promote you to boss" true?
12. Why does the desire of the sluggard kill him?
13. Describe the annoyance of a slothful messenger to the one who sends him?
14. Who prospers besides the one who manifests diligence?

