

Wisdom in Work

Proverbs 6:6 – 8, 26:13 - 16

I. Introduction

II. Wisdom in Work Is Always Seen in How We Do what We Do

A. The folly of the sluggard (26:13 – 16)

1. He rationalizes and makes excuses to avoid work (v. 13)

Proverbs 15:19 The way of a sluggard is like a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a level highway.

2. He doesn't start things (v. 14)

Proverbs 20:13 Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.

Proverbs 6:9 – 11 How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

Proverbs 20:4 The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.

3. He doesn't finish things (v. 15)

Proverbs 19:24 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish and will not even bring it back to his mouth.

Proverbs 12:11 Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

4. He won't face things (v. 16)

Proverbs 24:30 – 34 I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

Proverbs 21:25 – 26 The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor. All day long he craves and craves, but the righteous gives and does not hold back.

B. The wisdom of the diligent (6:6 – 8)

1. He is self-motivated to work hard

2. He prioritizes what he needs to do

Proverbs 10:4 – 5 A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.

Proverbs 24:27 Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house.

3. He works with the future in view

Proverbs 13:4 The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

Proverbs 12:24 The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

Proverbs 22:29 Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

Proverbs 23:4 – 5 Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.

III. Conclusion

Colossians 3:23 – 24 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.