

**I. Introduction and Review.**

**A. The theology of work.**

1. God works. Ge. 2:1-3 Jn. 5:17
2. God created mankind to reflect His image through work: dominion. Ge. 2:1-3,15
3. The fall has corrupted human labor. Gen. 3:17-19 Ecc. 2:20-21
4. Christ reverses the effects of the fall, thereby making labor meaningful and significant. Eph. 6:5-8 4:28

**B. Your work reflects your character.**

1. Diligence is moral wisdom.
2. Laziness is a sin! 15:19 I Tim. 5:8

**II. Don't be a sluggard. 6:5-11 24:30-34 26:12-16**

**A. Characteristics of the sluggard.**

1. He is lazy. He hates to work! 26:15 19:24 12:27
2. He delights in sleep and recreation. 6:9-10 19:15 26:14
3. He lacks initiative and needs supervision (a taskmaster). 6:7 Eph. 6:4
4. He procrastinates, living for today and not planning ahead. 6:8 20:4 24:31
5. He invents excuses for not working. 22:13 26:13,16
6. He is self deceived. 6:9-10 26:16
7. He is looking for easy money. 12:11 13:11 14:23 21:5 28:19
8. He is a destroyer. 18:9 24:30-31 Ecc. 10:18

**B. God has ordained consequences for laziness. 15:19**

1. You will lose your job. 10:26 18:9
2. You will be poor. 6:11 10:4 13:4 19:15 20:4,13 21:25-26,17
3. You will suffer many regrets. 13:4 21:25-26
4. You will be disgraced in the community. 10:5
5. You will face judgement. II Th. 3:6

**C. Application: Don't provide material aid to sluggards. 16:26 II Thess. 3:10**

1. You undermine God's discipline. 15:19 3:11-12
2. You hurt the sluggard by enabling his pattern of sin.
3. Sluggards who seek charity are thieves. 20:4 Eph. 4:28
4. Old covenant charity was to the deserving poor who generally had to work for what they got. Ruth 2:1f

**III. Be diligent.**

**A. Characteristics of the wise (godly) worker.**

1. He/she works hard: wholeheartedly. Eph. 6:6b Ecc. 9:10
2. He has initiative and works well without supervision. 6:7 Eph. 6:6
3. He prepares for the future. 6:8 21:5 24:27 30:25
4. He is patient: building his business/wealth gradually through hard work.
5. He is a good steward of his resources. 27:23f 24:27,31
6. He performs his duties with excellence and even artistry. 22:29 Ecc. 9:10
7. He sees his vocation as being significant. 22:29 Eph. 6:6 Col. 3:17,22-24

**B. God rewards the diligent. 15:19**

1. You will be well off financially. 10:4 13:4 28:19 14:23 21:5
2. You will enjoy success and fulfillment in your career. 12:24,14b 22:29
3. You will enjoy the blessings of food and rest. Ecc. 5:12,19
4. You will be respected in the community. 10:5 22:29
5. You will be rewarded in the final judgement. Eph. 6:8
6. Application: The Bible does not support socialism/communism.

**IV. Concluding applications: All of us are full time Christian workers.**

**A. Your vocation: God has given you work to do for His glory**

1. Work is not just for money but dominion in God's image. 22:29
2. Work is only good if it is exercised under God's Lordship. 16:3
3. Your career is no substitute for a relationship with God. Mt. 6:24
4. In Christ you can become a giver, rather than a taker. Eph. 4:28
5. Applications to particular groups: children, homemakers, retirees.

**B. Your ministry: You have spiritual work to do.**

1. God has entrusted you with spiritual gifts. Mt. 25:14-30 I Pet. 4:10-11
2. How long will you bury your talents?
3. You will give account. Mt. 25:26
4. If you are faithful you will share in the fruit of the harvest. II Co. 9:10

**C. Don't be a spiritual sluggard. Mt. 25:5 21:28f Ro. 13:11**

1. Some are neglecting their souls the way the sluggard neglects his field.
2. Christians must perform the plowing of prayer and sowing of evangelism if they want to see a harvest.
3. Life is short: Use every hour well. Ecc. 9:10 Ps. 90: Gal. 6:10
4. We will work in heaven. Rev. 22:3

**D. God has given us rest along with work. Gen. 2:1-3 Ex. 20:8-11**

1. Weekly rest.
2. Christ Jesus has completed His work so that we might find rest in Him. He. 4:4f

**Discussion questions for family worship.**

1. Is work the result of the fall? How has the fall affected human labor? Gen. 2:15 3:17-19
2. How does your work reflect what is in your character?
3. How much sleep is too much sleep? Pr. 6:9-10
4. Compare the characteristics of the sluggard versus the diligent.
5. What is wrong with seeking "easy money"? 12:11 28:19 21:15 13:11
6. What are the consequences of laziness?
7. What are the rewards of the diligent?
8. Why is it important for young people to develop a strong work ethic?
9. How can people be lazy spiritually?
10. How has Christ worked to bring us rest?