

WISDOM FROM PROVERBS:

A LAZY SAINT?

Does procrastination affect God's
favor upon our lives?

Proverbs 24:30-34

30 I went past the field of a sluggard,
past the vineyard of someone who has no sense;

31 thorns had come up everywhere,
the ground was covered with weeds,
and the stone wall was in ruins.

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

33 A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest—

34 and poverty will come on you like a thief
and scarcity like an armed man.

Procrastination's closest friend –Excuses

Prov 26:13, 16

13 A sluggard says, “There’s a lion in the road,
a fierce lion roaming the streets!”

16 A sluggard is wiser in his own eyes
than seven people who answer discreetly.

Prov 26:16

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When we make excuses to get out of our
responsibility we end up deceiving ourselves because:

- We are destroying our own credibility and integrity.
- We are losing our opportunity to be successful--
destroying our future

Does laziness affect our
development as God's saints?

Laziness leads to Discontentment

- Proverbs 13:4

A sluggard's appetite is never filled, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

- Discontentment can be due to many factors but one of them is that it is self-caused – we want but we are not willing to work for it.

Discontentment will bring self-defeat and self destruction

Prov 21:25-26

25 The craving of a sluggard will be the death of him,
because his hands refuse to work.

26 All day long he craves for more,
but the righteous give without sparing.

Laziness
reflects a
lack of
wisdom or
good sense.

Since wisdom is a result of fear of God, it implies that the lazy person is someone who lacks a true fear of God.

How to increase in
wisdom?

Learn from
observations of
life and nature --
ants

Prov 6:6-8

6 Go to the ant, you sluggard;

consider its ways and be
wise!

7 It has no commander,

no overseer or ruler,

8 yet it stores its provisions in
summer and gathers its food
at harvest.

A call to diligence

- A Promise of blessing - Diligence brings wealth

Prov 10:4

Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.

A call to responsible living

- Reliability an antitode to laziness.
- Reliability should be characteristic of the upright.
- ***Unreliability*** is another form of laziness.
- God views unreliability with disfavor because it hurts others.

Prov 10:26

As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,
so are sluggards to those who send them.

Diligence & Responsible Living Earns Respect

In carrying out our responsibilities according to schedule,
- we train ourselves in prudence (good judgment) -
we earn the respect of others.

Proverb 10:4-5

⁴ Lazy hands make for poverty,
but diligent hands bring wealth.

⁵ He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent son,
but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful
son.

Diligence & Responsible Living is key to long-term success

Proverbs 15:19

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

- Notice that the contrast is between the sluggard and the upright.
- Uprightness requires effort, discipline, self-denial, sacrifice but his path will become increasingly smooth.