



72. Not a Sluggard

A sluggard is a lazy person. And Proverbs 24:30-34 says, *“I passed by the field of the sluggard and by the vineyard of the man lacking sense, and behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles; its surface was covered with nettles [prickly weeds], and its stone wall was broken down. When I saw, I reflected upon it; I looked, and received instruction. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, then your poverty will*

come as a robber and your want like an armed man."

Your trust in God doesn't justify laziness. *"Laziness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle man will suffer hunger,"* Proverbs 19:15. And *"Do not love sleep, or you will become poor; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with food,"* Proverbs 20:13. The Apostle Paul taught, *"If anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat,"* that's 2 Thessalonians 3:10. And it's right to work long hours to pay off your debt, Proverbs 6:1-11. Hard work and money are not enemies. However, putting wealth above God is wrong. Don't make possessions your idol. *"You cannot serve God and wealth,"* Matthew 6:24.

Work diligently for the right reasons. *“He must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need,”* Ephesians 4:28. *“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve,”* Colossians 3:23. Work heartily so that you can give. Work heartily as for the Lord. Work heartily but don't bow down to wealth.

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