



"CHOOSING PRODUCTIVITY OVER LAZINESS"

PROVERBS 10:4-5

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Introduction: The words “productivity” and “laziness” are more than actions, they represent basic attitude choices toward the time, money, gifts, and opportunities God has given us. Today we are going to discover both the immediate and eternal benefits of choosing productivity over laziness.

Definition of productivity: Productivity is an attitude that maximizes God’s **gifts** to us.

Definition of laziness: Laziness [slothfulness] is an attitude of **indifference** toward the time, talents, resources, and opportunities God gives us.

I. The Relationship Between Productivity And Prosperity (Proverbs 3:9-10; 10:4-5; 10:22)

Proverbs 3:9-10 ⁹ “Honor the LORD from your wealth, and from the first of all your produce; ¹⁰ so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”

Proverbs 10:4-5 ⁴ “Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. ⁵ He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts shamefully.”

Proverbs 10:22 “It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it.”

Proverbs 13:21 “Adversity pursues sinners, but the righteous will be rewarded with prosperity.”

Proverbs 15:6 “Much wealth is in the house of the righteous, but trouble is in the income of the wicked.”

Hebrews 11:37 “They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated.”

1 Corinthians 1:26 “For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise [called] according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble.”



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II. The Anatomy Of A Sluggard (Proverbs 24:30-34)

Proverbs 24:30-34 ³⁰ "I passed by the field of the sluggard, and by the vineyard of the man lacking sense; ³¹ and behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles; its surface was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. ³² When I saw, I reflected upon it; I looked, and received instruction. ³³ 'A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,' ³⁴ then your poverty will come as a robber, and your want like an armed man."

Proverbs 6:10-11a "A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come on you like a thief." NIV

A. The Sluggard Refuses to Begin a Job (Proverbs 26:13)

Proverbs 26:14 "Like the door turns on its hinges, so does the sluggard on his bed."

Proverbs 26:13 "There is a lion in the road! A lion is in the open square!"

James 4:13-14 ¹³ "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.' ¹⁴ Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away."

B. The Sluggard Does Not Complete His Work (Proverbs 12:27)

Proverbs 12:27 "A slothful man does not roast his prey, but the precious possession of a man is diligence."

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

C. The Sluggard Ignores Opportunities (Proverbs 24:33-34)

Proverbs 24:33-34 ³³ "A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, ³⁴ Then your poverty will come as a robber, and your want like an armed man."



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D. **The Sluggard Craves Riches** (Proverbs 14:23; 28:19)

Proverbs 28:20b "He who makes haste to be rich will not go unpunished."

Proverbs 14:23 "In all labor there is profit, but more talk leads only to poverty."

Proverbs 28:19 "He who tills his land will have plenty of food, but he who follows empty pursuits will have poverty in plenty."

III. **Developing An Attitude Of Productivity**

A. **Clearly Define Your Purpose in Life** (Ephesians 5:15-17)

Ephesians 5:15-17 ¹⁵ "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of your time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

B. **Spend Your Time Effectively** (Psalm 90:12)

Psalm 90:12 "So teach us to number our days that we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom."

James 4:14 "Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away."

C. **Manage Your Financial Resources According to God's Plan** (Proverbs 6:6-8; 21:20; 22:7)

D. **Discipline Yourself for a Productive Life** (1 Corinthians 9:27)

1 Corinthians 9:27 "But I [Paul] buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified."



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Practical Suggestions for Getting Out of the Rut of Slothfulness

1. Start small
2. Be on time
3. Do the hardest job first
4. Organize your life
5. Accept correction
6. Practice self-denial

Self-discipline Tips from John MacArthur

E. Define "Productivity" Correctly (Matthew 16:26)

Matthew 16:26a "For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul?"

Conclusion