

I. Introduction and Review.

- A. There is no aspect of life on which we spend more time than our vocation.
- B. 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. Ge. 3:17-19 Js. 5:1-6 I Pe. 2:18ff
 - 4. Christ reverses the effects of the fall, thereby making labor meaningful and significant before God. Eph. 6:5-8 4:28
 - 5. We will work in heaven. Rev. 22:3
- C. Your work reflects your character. .
 - 1. Diligence is necessary for holiness.
 - 2. Laziness is a sin! 15:19 I Tim. 5:8
 - 3. Learn from the sluggard! 24:30-32
 - 4. The sluggard should learn from the ant. 6:5f

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 requires constant supervision. 6:7 Eph. 6:4
 - 4. He invents excuses for not working. 22:13 26:13,16
 - 5. He procrastinates, living for today and not planning ahead. 6:8 20:4 24
 - 6. He is self deceived. 6:9-10 26:16
 - 7. He is always looking for easy money. 12:11 13:11 14:23 21:5 28:19
 - 8. He is a destroyer. 18:9 24:30-31 10:26 Ecc. 10:18 I Ti. 5:8
- 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 10:4a 12:24 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. 15:19 16:26 II Th. 3:10

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. II Th. 3:10

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. Don't make work an idol. Mt. 6:24
4. In Christ you can become a giver, rather than a taker. Eph. 4:28
5. Applications to particular groups.

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 Mt. 25:23

C. Don't be a spiritual sluggard. Mt. 25:5 21:28f Ecc. 9:10 Ps. 90:12 Gal. 6:10

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
John 4:34 17:4
3. Cease from your labors to save yourself: Make the good life by your own efforts.

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?