

C. Our diligence produces benefits for others.

➤ 22:29

D. The goal of diligence is not purely wealth.

➤ 23:4-5

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- Describe your attitude toward work. What adjustments have been made by God's word in your diligence in work?
- Have you viewed your diligence as an issue of faith in God? How might the idea of diligence as an expression of faith effect one's work?
- Why is working hard a better expression of "living by faith" than doing nothing, and waiting for God to provide?
- How is laziness or sloth an expression of unbelief?
- In what areas of your life have you been slothful or lazy? How might you become diligent in those areas?
- How is diligence an expression of love toward God? ...toward others? Who are the others effected by your diligence or laziness?
- How might diligence be applied in the specific circumstances of your life?

Wisdom's Promise – Folly's Pain: Diligence and Sloth

Jerry Cisar — July 11, 2010

Text: Proverbs 10:4-5

Introduction – Attitudes Toward Work

A. The book of Proverbs has much to say on the subject of work.

i. Character: laziness vs. diligence

ii. Godly ambitions

➤ 3:16

I. Diligence as an Expression of Faith

A. The Promise for Diligence

i. 13:4

ii. 20:13

iii. 14:23

B. Why does diligence bring wealth?

i. Because God is faithful!

a) **Genesis 8:22**

ii. The wise son of 10:5 is gathering crops in summer because he planted in spring!

a) 20:4

b) 24:27

C. Diligence is an expression of faith that God will bring about the results of work.

II. Sloth as an Expression of Folly

A. *Laziness is an expression of unbelief... of folly.*

i. **He will not begin His work on time.**

a) 6:9-10

b) 19:24

c) 12:27

ii. He rationalizes his own laziness...

a) 22:13

b) 26:16

➤ He doesn't see his problem as laziness; he thinks he is a realist.

➤ He doesn't think he is slothful, but "*not a morning person.*"

➤ He lives as if he were the only one judging this matter.

B. A fool's folly is the death of him.

i. 24:30-34

ii. 12:24

C. Laziness may pay-off in the short run.

III. Diligence as an Expression of Love

A. Love to God

i. 3:9-10

a) 1 Corinthians 9:14

b) Gal. 6:6

B. Love to Neighbor

i. 22:9

ii. 28:27

iii. 19:17