

Upcoming Events

Preliminary Planning for Fall 2020 Meeting
Panera Bread Open Bible Study: TBD

Diligent or Lagging

Excerpt from article by Tim Dooley

We do not always see the fruit of our labors, but we must not give up. If we are mocked or rejected or persecuted by those around us, we keep obeying God (1 Peter 2:19-20) The things we do in the name of the Lord are not done in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58). May we never lag in diligence when it comes to the Lord's work.

April Birthdays

3 Amanda Hoffman 6 Susan Hudson 16 Alana Hudson
23 Shannon Hudson 26 Stori Rose Hoffman

April Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kena Brown

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
(Vacant)

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A Day in the Life of a Sluggard, Part 1

By Allen Webster

We're all against laziness, in theory, but how can we tell if we fit the category?



A Sluggard Has Problems with His Alarm Clock.

A Danish proverb says, A lazy boy and a warm bed are difficult to part. The Bible says, "How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep", (Proverbs 6:9-11). How much sleep is enough? The comedian quipped, For the average person - about an hour more. The Italians says, Five hours of sleep a traveler, seven a scholar, eight a merchant, and eleven every knave. Truthfully, it varies from person to person. Children need more sleep than adults; young adults often more than older adults. Some on medication or with health problems require nine or ten hours. Others with strong constitutions require only four to five. Each can experiment for a week at time at different amounts (it takes time to adjust) to find where he/she feels best and is most productive. Once this is determined, don't spend more time between the sheets than needed.

Eats the Wrong Kind of Toast.

“The worthy woman looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness” (Proverbs 31:27). You may like Flowers, Merita, Sunbeam, Pepperidge Farm, or Dixie Darling, but don't eat the bread called Idleness. Parents should not feed this brand to their children, either. Whatever happened to children getting up in time to make their beds before school and having chores to do after school? Many would have better grades if they had a couple of hours a night with the books instead of with the remote control. Not a few come to Bible class without ever having looked at the lesson or memorized that week's verse.

Fathers need to teach sons the value of work. The Jewish proverb has a grain of truth in it: He who doesn't teach his son a trade teaches him to steal (cf. Proverbs 22:6). One reason that employers have trouble getting production from young workers is that some dads never taught their sons to work. It was easier just to do it themselves or hire someone rather than teach them how to do it or motivate them to leave the TV or Nintendo long enough to mow the grass, wash the car, hoe the garden, change the oil, rake the leaves, help the widow, organize their room, or clean the basement. This is a failure of parental responsibility.

Mothers, too, need to teach daughters how to keep the house straightened, prepare meals, purchase groceries and supplies, sew a button on (perhaps even make a shirt), take food to the bereaved, and care for the needs of husbands and children. Otherwise how will they be prepared to do what God wants them to? The Bible says, *“I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully”* (1 Timothy 5:14). *“Older women are to teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed”* (Titus 2:3-5).

Keeps Company with a Bad Brother.

He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster (Proverbs 18:9). *“The slothful man roasteth not that which*

he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious” (Proverbs 12:27). These verses are saying that a slothful man fails to use his advantages. The diligent may not have much, but he makes good use of what he has. A fool may have more, but he can't keep it. The dollar he wastes is sure to be gained by a wiser person.

From the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) we gain three key economic thoughts: (1) wasted his substance; (2) when he had spent all; and (3) began to be in want. It works that way. Waste and want belong together and cannot be separated long. If money runs through our pockets like water through a sieve, then we should not be surprised to find our wallets usually empty. This boy learned in the School of Hard Knocks, but the tuition was awfully high. By the time he got back home, ragged and tattered with his stomach pulled in against his backbone, he was not wanting to give any lectures on finance nor on what he perhaps had once thought was the old man's penny-pinching ways.

This applies in practical terms to saving food leftover from one meal to use at another (cf. John 6:12), saving articles for reuse instead of discarding them, using coupons or sales when possible, and putting aside a portion of the salary each week for savings instead of blowing the surplus. Solomon said, *“There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up”* (Proverbs 21:20). It also implies taking care of property by cautious use, regular cleaning, and immediate repair. For instance, becoming a homeowner brings with it the responsibility to keep it up. Scripture warns, *“By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through”* (Ecclesiastes 10:18). Each of these adds to one's overall financial standing and enables one to give more to the Lord. A lazy man will never be a good giver (cf. Ephesians 4:28; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve”. Colossians 3:23-24