

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 Mar.....Proverbs 1:1-19..... Seek Wisdom's Ways
- 2) 09 Mar.....Proverbs 1:33-3:8..... Learn Wisdom's Benefits
- 3) 16 Mar.....Proverbs 8:1-9:18..... Listen To Wisdom's Invitation
- 4) 23 Mar..... Proverbs 10:11;12;17;18;21;25;26;31..... Guard Your Speech
- 5) 30 Mar .. 10;11;13;14;19;20;22;24;26;28;21;27;28..... **Don't be a Slacker**
- 6) 06 Apr.....3;11;13;15;16; 20;21;22;23;28;30..... Financial Responsibility
- 7) 13 Apr..... 3;10;11;13;14;15;16;17;18;19;20;22;25;26;27..... Godly Friendships
- 8) 20 Apr..... Mark 14:32 – 16:8.....Amazed by the Resurrection
- 9) 27 Apr.....Proverbs 20; 23; 29; 31..... Avoid Addictions
- 10) 04 May.....Proverbs 5-6..... Moral Purity
- 11) 11 May.....Proverbs 31:10-31..... Treasure Mothers
- 12) 18 May..... Song of Songs 1:1-5:1..... Righteous Romance
- 13) 25 May..... Song of Songs 5:2-8:14..... Invest in the Best

INTRODUCTION

- Laziness comes in many forms:
 - ♦ We can take the path of least resistance to avoid conflict;
 - ♦ We can go play instead of work; or
 - ♦ We can be negligent in our endeavors, such as putting the least amount of effort into our jobs, our families, even in our giving

Passage	Comments
11:24-25; 19:17; 22:9; 28:27	<p>Give Generously and Diligently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can even be lazy in our giving – either giving nothing, or very little, or stingingly, or grudgingly, or whimsically • Giving or working is more than mindless doing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We must have the right attitude in our giving and in our working to reap God's blessings • 11:24-25. Does a generous person always reap more than a tight-wad? What about the widow with 2 mites? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We must always consider the God factor ♦ The rewards of a generous person may not be received in this lifetime • 19:17. The true reason for helping the poor – we lend to the Lord. Our motivation must always be focused on God • 28:27. "Those who give to the poor will lack nothing..." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This sounds like an absolute – but is it? ♦ Remember, it is a proverb. So, it is a truism, not an absolutism
More on Money	<p>Position yourself to be blessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus spoke more about money than any other subject – except Love • Two Thirds (2/3s) of the Lord's parables are about Money. Money is talked about more than Heaven or Hell. Only the topic of Love exceeds that of money. • How we handle money is a strong indicator of our level of spiritual maturity - Larry Burkett (Ecc 10:19 – Money answers all things). • There are Biblical guidelines to follow to ensure we do not put our God-given resources into a bag with holes (over 1000 passages in Scripture deal directly with wealth, 2nd only to Love. Proverbs alone has ~250 passages on stewardship) <p>Proper Perspective on Money</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LOVE of Money is the root of all evil (1 Tim 6:10) • It is unscriptural to hoard (Eccl 5:10-13; Lk 12:16-21) • If you don't work, you don't eat (2 Thes 3:10) • Poverty can be a killer (Prov 10:15)

Passage	Comments
Proverbs 13:4; 14:23; 20:4; 24:30-34; 26:13-14; 28:19	<p>Work Diligently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture uses the term for sluggard/slothful (06102 מְצַלְמֵל 'atsel') 14x, and only in Proverbs, to convey someone who willfully refuses to take work seriously • Sluggards expect their needs to be met without effort or for others to meet their needs for them • 24:32. We can learn lessons from lazy people. My dad use to tell me that if you want to find the easiest way to do a job, first find the laziest person you can and let them figure it out – and they will. What other lessons can lazy people teach us? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Being lazy is more costly ♦ Sleeping in late can be detrimental • 28:19. What are some empty pursuits or fantasies we can chase? Golf? Other hobbies? Vices? _____? • WARNING → The pendulum can swing too far the wrong way. Being a workaholic can also be detrimental
Work as Designed by God	<p>God never intended work to be tedious, boring, or unproductive. Work was meant to be enjoyable In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve cultivated the garden without blood, sweat, and tears. But the Adamic curse brought weeds, drought, floods, and pestilence. Add difficult people to the mix, and work becomes unbearable at times When we follow God's laws, God is able to be involved with our daily efforts to survive and bring Him glory</p>
6:6-8; 10:5; 14:4; 21:20; 24:27; 27:23-27	<p>Work Smarter, Not Harder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider "If the axe is dull and he does not sharpen its edge, then he must exert more strength"Ec 10:10 • 6:6-8. Can slugs and sloths change?Jer 13:23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Only if they confess and repent and get to work ♦ The first step to change bad behavior is seeing what good behavior looks like ♦ What positive characteristics can we learn from ants? Are there other animals that can teach us? • 14:4. Sometimes we have to spend money to make money. Another way to look at this passage is if the garage is clean and empty (no car), then how can we get to work on time? • Another aspect to encourage positive change is setting priorities. What comes first – a job or a house?

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- We are commanded to help the poor who are not sluggards
- We are not commanded to help the sluggards who are poor
- THEREFORE → We need to discern the difference before giving our God-given resources away frivolously.

NEXT WEEK: Selected Proverbs on Financial Wisdom

