

Wisdom and Work (Lessons from Proverbs, no. 7)

Work is a big part of life. God made Adam and placed him in a garden, to work there. In God's week, there are six days for work, and one for resting! When Jesus came, he spent many years in working with his hands. The book of Proverbs teaches us about how to work wisely. Its teaching is very simple: work hard!

1. Work is honourable, and God's will for our lives

Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men. - Proverbs 20:29

She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness – Proverbs 31:27

2. Work is God's way to prosperity ...

“He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty” – Proverbs 28:19.

“She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.” - **Proverbs 31:17-18**

... and laziness is the way to poverty.

6 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! 7 It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, 8 yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. 9 How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest — 11 and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man. - **Proverbs 6:6-10**

Do not love sleep or you will grow poor; stay awake and you will have food to spare – **Proverbs 20:13**. In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty - **Proverbs 14:23**.

3. God tells us to be diligent – to do what we do with all our heart + strength, looking at all our opportunities.

One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys. - **Proverbs 18:9**. A sluggard does not plough in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing. - **Proverbs 20:4**

Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth. He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son. - **Proverbs 10:4-5**

Don't make excuses: **22v13** - The sluggard says, “There is a lion outside!” or, “I will be murdered in the streets!”

See all the areas of a godly wife's work in **31:10-31**; it is not just one thing.