**"Diligence and Sluggard"**

**Proverbs 6:6-11; 13:4**

1. **Diligence - "Persistent work or effort"**

 1. God blesses hands hard at work

***Proverbs 13:4, "...the soul of the diligent is richly supplied"***

***Proverbs 10:4, "...the hand of the diligent makes rich"***

 2. There is a return for your labor

***Proverbs 14:23, "In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty."***

***Proverbs 27:18, "Whoever tends a fig tree will eat its fruit."***

**II**. **Sluggard/Slothful/Slack - lazy, hesitant**

(put Proverbs 6:6-11 on the screen)

1. **Characteristics of a sluggard**
2. Trouble getting started...procrastination (6:9-10)

2. No follow through (19:24)

***Proverbs 19:24, "The sluggard buries his hand in the dish and will not even bring it back to his mouth."***

3. Short-sighted (20:4)

***Proverbs 20:4, "The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing."***

4. Lives by excuses (26:13-14)

***Proverbs 26:13-14, "The sluggard says, 'There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!'"***

***"As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed."***

5. Will not listen to reason or accept reality (26:16)

***Proverbs 26:16, "The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly."***

**B**. **Consequences of being a sluggard**

1. Leads to poverty and ruin (6:11)

***Proverbs 6:11, "and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man."***

"**Selective Sluggardliness"**

2. Takes a toll on others (18:9)

***Proverbs 18:9, "Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys."***

3. Affront to God (15:19; 21:25-26)

***Proverbs 15:19, “The way of a sluggard is like a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a level highway.”***

***Proverbs 21:25-26, "The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor. All day long he craves and craves, but the righteous gives and does not hold back."***

**C. Conclusions for the sluggard**

1. Church: Admonish the lazy

***I Thessalonians 5:14, "And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all."***

2. Sluggard: Adjust your perspective

***Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests but also for the interests of others. (Phil. 2:3-4).***

***Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need (Eph. 4:28).***