

Idleness

I. Introduction: Consider some synonyms of the term idleness: “laziness, indolence, slothfulness, sloth, shiftlessness, inertia, sluggishness, lethargy, languor, torpidity, torpor; remissness, negligence, slackness, laxity” (New Oxford American Dictionary).

A. We sing songs that say: “I want to be a worker for the Lord...” (page 13), “We’ll work till Jesus comes...” (page 34), and “Work, for the night is coming...” (page 40).

1. Do you understand the words you speak when you sing them (**Psalms 47:7** and **I Corinthians 14:15**)?

2. Do you mean it when you sing it (**Matthew 12:36** and **Colossians 3:9**)?

B. We are expected to be workers for the Lord (**I Corinthians 15:58**).

1. We are all aware, and would do well to remind ourselves of, what faith without works equates to (**James 2:14-26**).

2. Ponder the terminology in the statements “work of faith” and “labor of love” (**I Thessalonians 1:1-3**).

II. Body: That Ye Be Not Slothful (**Hebrews 4:14-6:12**).

A. Rather than being slothful (**Proverbs 18:9**), we are to be fervent; zealous (**Romans 12:11**).

1. Zeal can be dangerous if uninformed or misinformed (**Acts 18:24-28** and **Romans 10:1-3**).

2. Godly zeal is in GOOD WORKS (**Titus 2:11-14**).

3. Good works are born and carried out through learned application of the Scriptures (**II Timothy 3:14-17**).

4. Good works are also brought about through the work of the saints (**Hebrews 10:24-25**).

B. Someone can be idle not only in doing nothing at all, but also in doing nothing truly fruitful while doing things they ought not do (**I Timothy 5:13**).

1. In Christ, we are supposed to be fruitful people (**Ephesians 2:10** and **Colossians 1:10**).

2. Until we enter into our rest, we’re not done (**Hebrews 3:13-4:11**).

C. The application of idleness in the realm of physical responsibilities (**Ecclesiastes 10:18**).

1. Lazy people often have excuses as to why they don’t do their duties (**Proverbs 20:4**, **Proverbs 22:13**, and **Proverbs 26:13-16**).

2. God’s answer to the laziness of man is... (**Proverbs 6:6-11**, **Proverbs 10:4-5**, **Proverbs 12:27**, **Proverbs 21:25**, **Proverbs 24:30-34**, and **II Thessalonians 3:6-15**).

III. Conclusion: **Matthew 25:14-30**