

~LAZINESS (343)

[Hebrew, *'a-tsal'*, Greek, *o-kne-ros'*]

- The Lazy Man's Thinking
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- Disinclination or aversion to effort or work, idleness, indolence, slothfulness, sluggishness. The Hebrew verb *'a-tsal'* means, be sluggish.
- At this they said; Do get up, and let us go up against them, for we have seen the land, and, look! It is very good. And you are hesitant. Do not be sluggish about walking to come in to take possession of the land. (Judges 18:9)
- The noun related to this verb is translated, **lazy one**.
- Go to the ant, you **lazy one**, see its ways and become wise. (Proverbs 6:6)
- The Greek word *o-kne-ros'* means, **sluggish, slothful**. Int
- In reply his master said to him; Wicked and sluggish slave, you knew, did you, that I reaped where I did not sow and gathered where I did not winnow? (Matthew 25:26)
- Do not loiter at your business. Be aglow with the spirit. Slave for Yehowah. (Romans 12:11)
- Another term Greek, *no-thros'*, means, **sluggish, dull**.
- Concerning him we have much to say and hard to be explained, since you have become dull in your hearing. (Hebrews 5:11)
- In order, that you may not become sluggish, but be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (Hebrews 6:12)
- Yehowah and his Son, as the two greatest workers, hate **laziness**. Jesus said; My Father has kept working until now, and I keep working.

- But he answered them; My Father has **kept working** until now, and I **keep working**. (John 5:17)
- Throughout God's Word the **lazy** person is warned and **laziness** is condemned.

· The Lazy Man's Thinking

- A description of the **lazy** man is given in the book of Proverbs. First of all, he throws up barriers in his own mind to justify himself in not starting on a project.
- The way of the **lazy** one is like a brier hedge, but the path of the upright ones is a way cast up. (Proverbs 15:19)
- He views his task as a road ahead filled with briers, very difficult to traverse. Then he makes ridiculous excuses for his slothfulness, saying,
- The **lazy** one has said; There is a lion outside! In the midst of the public squares I shall be murdered! (Proverbs 22:13)
- Frequently **laziness** is accompanied by cowardice, a fearful holding back.
- In reply his master said to him, Wicked and sluggish slave, you knew, did you, that I reaped where I did not sow and gathered where I did not winnow? (Matthew 25:26) Footnote
- For God gave us **not a spirit of cowardice**, but that of power and of love and of soundness of mind. (2 Timothy 1:7)
- Even though counseled and prompted by others, he turns over on his bed like a door on its pivot, as one who cannot get up. He is too lazy even to feed himself.
- A door keeps turning upon its pivot, and the **lazy** one upon his couch. (Proverbs 26:14)
- The lazy one has hidden his hand in the banquet bowl, he has become too weary to bring it back to his mouth. (Proverbs 26:15)
- The **lazy** one has hidden his hand in the banquet bowl, he cannot bring it back even to his own mouth. (Proverbs 19:24)

- But he has deceived himself so that he thinks in his own heart that he is right.
- Such an individual indulges in specious and imaginary reasoning. He may think that work will injure his health or that he is too tired. He may feel that the world owes him a living. Or, he puts off a job until tomorrow.
- Because of winter the **lazy** one will not plow, he will be begging in reaping time, but there will be nothing. (**Proverbs 20:4**)
- Any little thing he has done may make him feel he has done his part, as much as anyone else. Whereas all diligent men could give a sensible reply to any of such arguments, he is wiser in his own eyes, feeling that they are the foolish ones for exerting themselves and trying to encourage him to do the same.
- The lazy one has said; There is a young lion in the way, a lion in among the public squares. (**Proverbs 26:13**)
- A door keeps turning upon its pivot, and the **lazy** one upon his couch. (**Proverbs 26:14**)
- The **lazy** one has hidden his hand in the banquet bowl, he has become too weary to bring it back to his mouth. (**Proverbs 26:15**)
- The **lazy** one is wiser in his own eyes than seven giving a sensible reply. (**Proverbs 26:16**)
- The **lazy** person is not one who has self-sufficiency or contentment with sustenance and covering.
- To be sure, it is a means of great gain, this godly devotion along with self-sufficiency. (**1 Timothy 6:6**)
- For we have brought nothing into the world, and neither can we carry anything out. (**1 Timothy 6:7**)
- So, having sustenance and covering, we shall be content with these things. (**1 Timothy 6:8**)
- Rather, he has desires for things, usually for much more than food or clothing.

- The **lazy** one is showing himself desirous, but his soul has nothing. However, the very soul of the diligent ones will be made fat. (**Proverbs 13:4**)
- He has no consideration or respect for his fellowman, but he is willing to let someone else do his work, even to let another person provide him with the things he desires.
- Because of winter the **lazy** one will not plow, he will be begging in reaping time, but there will be nothing. (**Proverbs 20:4**)

• The Reward Of Laziness

- While the **lazy** individual may think he will get busy later, the reward of his **laziness** suddenly catches up with him and it is too late, for, he is told;
- How long, you **lazy** one, will you keep lying down? When will you rise up from your sleep? (**Proverbs 6:9**)
- A little more sleep, a little more slumbering, a little more folding of the hands in lying down. (**Proverbs 6:10**)
- And your poverty will certainly come just like some rover, and your want like an armed man. (**Proverbs 6:11**)
- Whether taken literally or figuratively, the description of the lazy man's situation is true.
- I passed along by the field of the **lazy** individual and by the vineyard of the man in need of heart. (**Proverbs 24:30**)
- And, look! All of it produced weeds. Nettles covered its very surface, and its stone wall itself had been torn down. (**Proverbs 24:31**)
- Through great **laziness** the beamwork sinks in, and through the letting down of the hands the house leaks. (**Ecclesiastes 10:18**)
- Whoever hires the **lazy** person, or whoever he represents, is bound to be disappointed and vexed and will suffer loss, for, as vinegar to the teeth and as smoke to the eyes, so the lazy man is to those sending him forth.

- As vinegar to the teeth and as smoke to the eyes, so the lazy man is to those sending him forth. (**Proverbs 10:26**)
- The slothful ones **laziness** will eventually bring dire results to him, for the very craving of the lazy will put him to death. His craving is for things he does not deserve or that are wrong. He may come to ruin in trying to get them. At any rate, his craving with laziness turns him away from God the Source of life.
- The very craving of the lazy will put him to death, for his hands have refused to work. (**Proverbs 21:25**)
- The Christian who is **lazy** is not cultivating the fruitage of the spirit, which will enliven and activate
- This man had been orally instructed in the way of Yehowah and, as he was aglow with the spirit, he went speaking and teaching with correctness the things about Jesus, but being acquainted with only the baptism of John. (**Acts of Apostles 18:25**)
- But is actually bringing himself into trouble. He is catering to the desires of the flesh. He may soon be walking disorderly, not working at all but meddling with what does not concern him.
- For we hear certain ones are walking disorderly among you, not working at all but meddling with what does not concern them. (**2 Thessalonians 3:11**)

·· How Viewed In The Christian Congregation

- In the early Christian congregation an arrangement was established to give material help to needy ones, especially to widows. It seems that some of the younger widows expressed themselves as desirous of using their freedom as widows to engage zealously in the Christian ministry.
- And he is divided. Further, the unmarried woman, and the virgin, is anxious for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in her body and in her spirit. However, the married woman is anxious for the things of the world, how she may gain the approval of her husband. (**1 Corinthians 7:34**)

- Evidently some were given material assistance. But instead of properly using the greater freedom and additional time thus afforded them, **they became idle, unoccupied, and began to gad about.**
- They became gossipers and meddlers in other peoples affairs, talking of things they ought not. For this reason the apostle Paul instructed the overseer Timothy not to put such persons on the list for aid but to let them marry and use their energies and abilities in rearing children and managing a household.
- Let a widow be put on the list who has become not less than sixty years old, a wife of one husband. (**1 Timothy 5:9**)
- Having a witness borne to her for fine works, if she reared children, if she entertained strangers, if she washed the feet of holy ones, if she relieved those in tribulation, if she **diligently followed every good work.** (**1 Timothy 5:10**)
- On the other hand, turn down younger widows, for when their sexual impulses have come between them and the Christ, they want to marry. (**1 Timothy 5:11**)
- Having a judgment because they have disregarded their first expression of faith. (**1 Timothy 5:12**)
- At the same time they also learn to be unoccupied, gadding about to the houses, yes, not only unoccupied, but also gossipers and meddlers in other people's affairs, talking of things they ought not. (**1 Timothy 5:13**)
- Therefore I desire the younger widows to marry, to bear children, to manage a household, to give no inducement to the opposer to revile. (**1 Timothy 5:14**)
- Already, in fact, some have been turned aside to follow Satan. (**1 Timothy 5:15**)
- If any believing woman has widows, let her relieve them, and let the congregation not be under the burden. Then it can relieve those who are actually widows. (**1 Timothy 5:16**)
- In the matter of material assistance in the Christian congregation, the Bible rule is,

- In fact, also, when we were with you, we used to give you this order. If anyone does not want to **work**, neither let him eat. (**2 Thessalonians 3:10**)
- The family head must provide for his household, and the wife must not eat **the bread of laziness**.
- She is watching over the goings-on of her household, and the bread of **laziness** she does not eat. (**Proverbs 31:27**)
- Certainly if anyone does not provide for those who are his own, and especially for those who are members of his household, he has disowned the faith and is worse than a person without faith. (**1 Timothy 5:8**)

•• **Avoid Laziness In Study And In The Ministry**

- Counsel is given against **laziness** regarding studying and getting a deeper understanding of God's purposes as well as in engaging in the Christian ministry. The apostle Paul reproved some unprogressive Hebrew Christians, pointing out;
- Concerning him we have much to say and hard to be explained, since you have become dull in your hearing. (**Hebrews 5:11**)
- For, indeed, although you ought to be teachers in view of the time, you again need someone to teach you from the beginning the elementary things of the sacred pronouncements of God, and you have become such as need milk, not solid food. (**Hebrews 5:12**)
- He also admonishes;
- Do not loiter at your business. Be aglow with the spirit. Slave for Yehowah. (**Romans 12:11**)
- Jesus foretold that there would be a class of persons claiming to be his servants who would become sluggish and wicked, not working to increase the Masters interests in the earth.
- The Master, on his return, would take away from them the interests committed to their care and would have them thrown as a good-for-nothing slave into the darkness outside.

- But the one that received just one went off, and dug in the ground and hid the silver money of his master. ([Matthew 25:18](#))
- Finally the one that had received the one talent came forward and said; Master, I knew you to be an exacting man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not winnow. ([Matthew 25:24](#))
- So I grew afraid and went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours. ([Matthew 25:25](#))
- In reply his master said to him; Wicked and sluggish slave, you knew, did you, that I reaped where I did not sow and gathered where I did not winnow? ([Matthew 25:26](#))
- Well, then, you ought to have deposited my silver monies with the bankers, and on my arrival I would be receiving what is mine with interest. ([Matthew 25:27](#))
- Therefore take away the talent from him and give it to him that has the ten talents. ([Matthew 25:28](#))
- For to everyone that has, more will be given and he will have abundance, but as for him that does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ([Matthew 25:29](#))
- And throw the good-for-nothing slave out into the darkness outside. There is where his weeping and the gnashing of his teeth will be. ([Matthew 25:30](#))