

A Working Document



The Text: The Old Testament book of **Proverbs** (Pages 984-1033 in the sanctuary Bible)
We are focusing on what Proverbs says about "work", categorizing worker descriptions into six common profiles. Three categories are pathetic and should be avoided. Three are noble and prudent to emulate.

1

- **14:23** All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.
- **18:9** One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.
- **21:25** The sluggard's craving will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work.



- **6:9** How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?
- **22:13** The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside!" or, "I will be murdered in the streets!"
- **6:6** Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! ⁷It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, ⁸yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

? *An application question:*

2

- **15:27** A greedy man brings trouble to his family, but he who hates bribes will live.
- **28:20** A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.



- **28:22** A stingy man is eager to get rich and is unaware that poverty awaits him.
- **23:4** Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. ⁵Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

? *An application question:*

3

- **11:18** The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.
- **13:11** Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.
- **20:17** Food gained by fraud tastes sweet to a man, but he ends up with a mouth full of gravel.
- **28:18b** ...But he whose ways are perverse will suddenly fall.



? *An application question:*

Please see other side.

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4

- **10:9** The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.
- **11:3** The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.
- **13:6** Righteousness guards the man of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.
- **28:18** He whose walk is blameless is kept safe, but he whose ways are perverse will suddenly fall.

? *An application question:*

5

- **10:5** He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.
- **12:11** He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment.
- **12:14** From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him.
- **12:24** Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor.
- **21:5** The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.
- **31:17** She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.

? *An application question:*

6

- **3:5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. ⁷Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.
- **16:3** Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.
- **16:20** Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.
- **Colossians 3:23** Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.
- **Matthew 5:16** Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

? *An application question:*

A sinner's prayer

Lord, I am a sinner who has offended you. Please forgive me. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins and place my trust in Christ's sacrifice as the only way to be right with you. Thank you for loving me and coming into my heart. I want to follow You and do Your will in my life. In Jesus' name, amen.

TAP

Read the designated Scripture. Reflect on it and write out short responses.

T - **key Truths** = Summary thoughts, principles to live by, observations to remember.

A - **practical Application** = How should I respond? What practical action can I take?

P - **my Prayer response** = My expression to God from what I am reading/thinking.

Mon- Prov. 6, Tues- Prov. 7, Wed- Prov. 8, Thur- Prov. 9, Fri- Prov. 10, Sat- Prov. 11