

# Trading Sloth for Strength: Why Hard Work is Good for God Path

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Seminar: Why Foolishness Leads to Poverty  
and How to choose the Path of Prudence  
Lord Jesus Christ Community Baptist Church  
Oakland County, Michigan

# Community Diagnosis

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The bible makes a clear choice between two ways of life. Our choices determine our consequences.

People need to stop depending on handouts, doing drugs and alcohol, acting like they are out here on their stuff to get themselves into trouble and incarcerated

<https://youtu.be/cyZco5PS0F0?si=AgcQjprG6rgcVbb>

# The Path of the Sluggard (the Lazy Person)

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- The sluggard is not just resting; he is avoiding responsibility and choosing comfort over commitment.
- The sluggard feels like the victim, but bible shows his consequences are his own making.
- Uses excuses to avoid work
- Laziness promise ease but delivers crushing cycle of poverty and failure.
- People quickly to quick, foolish, and illegal ways to satisfy their desires leading to trouble, consequences and incarceration.

## Resolution:

- Everything is accomplished through hard work and commitment like I did with my higher education and got my calling to preach.
- Get a job and stop sitting around doing nothing living off the government, such as Medicaid, SSI/SSDI and SNAP benefits.
- Get out and volunteer at an organization, homeless shelters or small business to strengthen your work ethic.
- The truth is Democrats in Congress, state and local level want more Americans to live off the government to increase government spending and national debt.
- Stop living your life by mammon, tax collector and handouts
- Do household chores, do your homework for school.

# Scriptures

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- Proverbs 26:13
- Proverbs 24:33-34
- Proverbs 12:24
- Proverbs 13:4
- 2 Thessalonians 3:10
- Genesis 1-2
- Proverbs 14:15
- Colossians 3:23
- Proverbs 6:6-8



# The Path of the Diligent (The Hard Worker)

- Diligence is being focused, committed and persistent.
- Work leads to reward and help people stay out of trouble and poverty, not living off of government subsidies like SNAP, Medicaid and SSI/SSDI.
- Hard work leads to leadership and freedom
- Laziness leads to being controlled and confined.



# The Root: Why We Fight Work

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Why does a sluggard constantly fight the effort required to live a better life?

- It is a spiritual problem



# The Lie of Entitlement

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The sluggard believes he is owed success without effort. This mindset blinds people from reality that every blessing requires stewardship and effort.



# Idolatry of Comfort

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- Laziness is an idol of comfort. We worship the temporary feeling of ease more than we worship God who calls us to productivity.
- God worked Adam and Eve that were created to work in the Garden
- Work is not a curse because it is a gift of calling that gives us dignity.
- We honor God when we use our hands to produce good things.



# Foolishness and Lack of Vision

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People who continuously get into trouble are foolish because they think about the immediate moment. They do not think about the consequences within five months and five years later. That why we need to teach our children to set realistic goals so they can live good life without being foolish, living in sin and learn how to stay out of trouble. The urgent need to quick money is temptation and blinds us to the consequences of being locked for years. w trade a moment of easy gratification for a lifetime of hard consequences.

# Action Plan

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1. Start off by doing a small task and not putting it off.
2. Apply and get a job
3. Volunteer at a business or organization
4. Avoid shortcuts that lead to trouble, arrests and incarceration.

# Discussion Questions

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1. How do we break the cycle of sloth and foolishness and choose the blessing of diligence?
2. Why does the sluggard constantly fight the effort required to live a better life?
3. Think about the last time you cut a corner or made an excuse to avoid a commitment. Did that choice give you peace or provide stress later?