

# Wisdom Goes to Work

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## A Proverbs Study on Work & Diligence

### Proverb Defined:

“A proverb is a concise, memorable saying, usually in poetic form, expressing a generally accepted observation about life as filtered through biblical revelation.”<sup>1</sup>

Four Characteristics of a Proverb:

- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
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### 1. Every wonder why we work?

- a. Because God works: Genesis 1:1; 2:1-3
- b. Jesus worked: John 5:17; 17:4
- c. We were made to work: Genesis 1:28; 2:15; 3:17-19; Exodus 20:9; Ephesians 4:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-10

“God created human beings in His own image and part of being ‘in His image’ means that we are workers — like God Himself. That’s where that innate, inner drive for work comes from. Work is part of God’s nature.”<sup>2</sup>

### 2. The Slothful Sluggard

- a. **Lazy:** Proverbs 6:6-11; 12:27; 19:24; 26:15
- b. Loves to **sleep:** Proverbs 26:14; 24:30-34; 20:13
- c. **Lacks initiative:** Proverbs 21:25-26; 24:27; 18:9; 10:26
- d. **Big plans:** Proverbs 13:4; 14:23; 26:16; 12:11
- e. Ready with **Excuses:** Proverbs 22:13; 20:4; 10:4

### 3. Working Wisely

- a. **Diligence:** *Ant like*, Proverbs 6:6-11; 10:4-5; 12:24; 13:4; 16:26
- b. **The Worthy Woman:** Proverbs 20:15-16, 27
- c. **Plans his work and works his plan:** Proverbs 21:5; 24:27

**Summary:** Wisdom teaches us that diligence is the key to successful labor. While we trust that God will always provide, we work as hard as we can, remembering that it is Christ whom we serve!

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Robert V. McCabe; Professor of Old Testament; Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary;  
<http://www.oldtestamentstudies.org/my-papers/other-papers/wisdom-literature/interpreting-proverbs/>

<sup>2</sup> Chuck Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship