

Working Well in God's World

Proverbs on Work

Lazy hands make for poverty,
but diligent hands bring wealth.

Proverbs 10:4

All hard work brings a profit,
but mere talk leads only to poverty.

Proverbs 14:23

He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent
son,
but he who sleeps during harvest is a
disgraceful son.

Proverbs 10:5

Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for;
through the fear of the LORD evil is avoided.

Proverbs 16:6

The LORD detests dishonest scales,
but accurate weights find favour with him.

Proverbs 11:1

Better a little with righteousness
than much gain with injustice.

Proverbs 16:8

The integrity of the upright guides them,
but the unfaithful are destroyed by their
duplicity.

Proverbs 11:3

One who is slack in his work
is brother to one who destroys.

Proverbs 18:9

Those who work their land will have abundant
food,
but those who chase fantasies have no sense.

Proverbs 12:11

The craving of a sluggard will be the death of him,
because his hands refuse to work.

Proverbs 21:25

Do you see someone skilled in their work?
They will serve before kings;
they will not serve before officials of low rank.

Proverbs 22:29

From the fruit of their lips people are filled with
good things,
and the work of their hands brings them
reward.

Proverbs 12:14

Put your outdoor work in order
and get your fields ready;
after that, build your house.

Proverbs 24:27

Diligent hands will rule,
but laziness ends in forced labour.

Proverbs 12:24

Those who work their land will have abundant
food,
but those who chase fantasies will have their
fill of poverty

Proverbs 28:19

A sluggard's appetite is never filled,
but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

Proverbs 13:4

Dishonest money dwindles away,
but whoever gathers money little by little
makes it grow.

Proverbs 13:11

Working Well in God's World

⁶ Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence,
and do not claim a place among his great men;
⁷ it is better for him to say to you, 'Come up here,'
than for him to humiliate you before his nobles.

What you have seen with your eyes

⁸ do not bring^[a] hastily to court,
for what will you do in the end
if your neighbour puts you to shame?

⁹ If you take your neighbour to court,
do not betray another's confidence,
¹⁰ or the one who hears it may shame you
and the charge against you will stand.

¹¹ Like apples^[b] of gold in settings of silver
is a ruling rightly given.

¹² Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine
gold
is the rebuke of a wise judge to a listening ear.

¹³ Like a snow-cooled drink at harvest time
is a trustworthy messenger to the one who
sends him;
he refreshes the spirit of his master.

¹⁴ Like clouds and wind without rain
is one who boasts of gifts never given.

¹⁵ Through patience a ruler can be persuaded,
and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

¹⁶ If you find honey, eat just enough –
too much of it, and you will vomit.

¹⁷ Seldom set foot in your neighbour's house –
too much of you, and they will hate you.

¹⁸ Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow
is one who gives false testimony against a
neighbour.

¹⁹ Like a broken tooth or a lame foot
is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of
trouble.

²⁰ Like one who takes away a garment on a cold
day,
or like vinegar poured on a wound,
is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

²¹ If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat;
if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.

²² In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his

head,
and the LORD will reward you.

²³ Like a north wind that brings unexpected rain
is a sly tongue – which provokes a horrified
look.

²⁴ Better to live on a corner of the roof
than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.

²⁵ Like cold water to a weary soul
is good news from a distant land.

²⁶ Like a muddied spring or a polluted well
are the righteous who give way to the wicked.

²⁷ It is not good to eat too much honey,
nor is it honourable to search out matters that
are too deep.

²⁸ Like a city whose walls are broken through
is a person who lacks self-control.

Proverbs 25:6-28