

Hebrews 6.11

Diligent

It is much easier to maintain that to rebuild. To do the little things that keep your heart, soul, mind and strength in love with your God than to claw your way back from the edge of ruin. The church in Palestine is tottering on the edge of this abyss. They are not mature, many are still babes, and they have neglected the spiritual disciplines which would have guarded them against the encroaching rot of their spiritual laziness.

I. DILIGENCE DEFINED –

a. Diligence is doing everything that is in your power to do,

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Whatever your hand finds to do, do *it* with your might; for *there is* no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

- b. It is doing that which is the better part, the better thing, the God given thing with all your might and in the fullness of joy...

Ecclesiastes 3.9-15

- c. It is our responsibility before God in every area of life

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV) ³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

- d. The opposite of diligence is laziness

- i. Laziness keeps us from doing that which is simply best

- 1. Too lazy to eat -

Proverbs 26:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ The lazy *man* buries his hand in the bowl; It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth.

2. Too lazy to care for and thus fully enjoy what God has given -

Proverbs 12:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ The lazy *man* does not roast what he took in hunting, But diligence *is* man's precious possession.

3. Laziness kills the heart by its own desires -

Proverbs 21:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ The desire of the lazy *man* kills him, For his hands refuse to labor.

4. Laziness destroys everything by slow degrees. It must be stopped at the outset or it will overtake our motivation

Proverbs 24.30-34

- ii. You will either apply diligence or you will experience decay.

II. DILIGENT TOGETHER

Desires that each one apply diligence and grow, not just the whole... if we don't all make it together, then we have all failed.

a. It matters how the others in the body of Christ are faring. We are accountable unto one another, but are also accountable to God FOR one another.

Galatians 6.1-5

b. This is driven by our love for one another, but also by our understanding that we are stronger and better together than we could ever be apart

Hebrews 10.24-25

c. It is unselfishly motivated and serves our own best need at the same moment. God has ordered the body to be such that every part does its share

Ephesians 4.11-16

III. DILIGENCE IS DECLARATIVE

Everyone around you sees your diligence, or your laziness. –

1Thessalonians 1.2-10

- a. Diligence breeds diligence - Paul prays for them without ceasing because he remembers them and the diligence they showed. It stirs up his own faithfulness when he sees theirs. By the same token, if we are surrounded by laziness we will tend toward that same laziness
- b. Diligence is public. The world saw their diligence and the churches were encouraged to emulate the diligence of the Thessalonians.
- c. Diligence honors the God we serve. If He is as worthy as we say He is, should not our lives reflect that we truly believe this? On the flip side, does it not tell the lie in our words if we

cannot be bothered to do any of the things that God commands us just because they are hard to do, or other things are more pressing, or we are just tired, lazy or uninterested?

IV. DILIGENCE IS GODLY

a. commanded -

Deuteronomy 6:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you.

b. God commands us to be diligent which translates into holiness

i. Protection –

Ezra 7.21-23

1. From wrath for those outside of God's family

2. From discipline for those inside...

Hebrews 12:5–6 (NKJV) ...*“My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; ⁶ For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”*

3. From drift and thus temptation

Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV) ²³ Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life.

4. Temptation is naturally diligent

Proverbs 7:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ So I came out to meet you, Diligently to seek your face, And I have found you.

c. Rewarded by God—

- i. He entrusts them with greater authority

Proverbs 10:4 (NKJV) ⁴ He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich.

- ii. Sets them to rule, while the lazy man serves as a slave to all

Proverbs 12:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy *man* will be put to forced labor.

- iii. Delights the heart of the Father, for it imitates God and His own nature. For God is always diligent, and He loves it when His children act in a manner consistent with His own person.

Deuteronomy 28:1 (NKJV) ¹ “Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.

- iv. God will surely reward those who honor Him with their hearts devotion and diligence