

**James 1:15: “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death”**

Every habitual sin has its beginning when it's conceived in the mind. If not dealt with immediately, sins of the mind become acts of sin.

The further immersed that one becomes in any sin, the more deeply that sin will take root in the soul. Beloved we MUST NOT allow sin to come to full maturity or “to finish its course” in our lives, but we must immediately cut it off when first conceived/detected in our minds! This evening, our focus is the sin of slothfulness/idleness.

**Ecclesiastes 10:18: “By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through the idleness of the hands the house droppeth through”**

Slothfulness, Idleness, or laziness are some of the most prevalent sins of our society; destructive among youth in our day, who often sit physically idle for hours on smartphones playing games or surfing social media platforms.

*The young are not the only ones plagued with slothfulness/idleness!*

Unfortunately, these sins when allowed to continue without correction in children and young people worsen as they enter adulthood.

Parents, teach your children to work! The FIRST thing they should do EVERY morning when they wake up is make their bed. Give them responsibilities! They should have daily chores! They should clean up after meals, take out the trash, and pick up their rooms.

They need to learn how to work NOW; you must train them while they are still in your home. When you're out in the yard cleaning up, mowing the grass, picking up the dead sticks, they need to be out there doing their part! When you're working on the car, teach them; mom when you're cooking, cleaning, teach them.

*Grandparents, if you're watching your grandbabies, teach them that work is good and profitable! Proverbs 14:23*

I'm picking on young people, because that's where the sins of slothfulness and idleness (laziness) begin, but that's also where they must not be tolerated! Parents and YES grandparents, you need to be instilling the discipline of a good work ethic into their young lives for their good.

*They're not going to naturally mortify these sins, YOU need to do it for them. These sins are destructive; they will lead to worse sins! The idle mind is the devil's workshop. Ezekiel 16:49-50*

If you allow your children to be lazy, (do everything for them) when they go out into the world and enter the work force, they'll be lazy, undisciplined, whiny adults with a poor work ethic and a sense of entitlement.

*God didn't create man/woman for slothfulness or to be idle and indolent! Genesis 2:15, (Dress – To work and serve God), Psalm 128:2, Ephesians 4:28*

**The truth is there is no age group immune to the sins of slothfulness, idleness, indolence. All of us need to mortify these sins out of our lives!**

Solomon, in our text warns us of this sin in the imagery of a building or house decaying and falling apart because of slothfulness/idleness.

If you own a home, you know that if you don't want your house to rot and fall down around you, you must be actively engaged in inspecting it and doing preventive maintenance on it. You need to make the small repairs immediately, when they occur to prevent major problems.

Proverbs 24:30-34

Biblical descriptions of the slothful/sluggard, how will we know one?

Proverbs 6:6-11, 19:15, 24, 20:4, 21:25, 26:13-16, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

**The opposite of the slothful, idle, and indolent is the disciplined and diligent.**  
**Proverbs 12:24, 13:4, 21:5**

Let me bring this into the realm of our souls; beloved if there is any aspect of your life in which you must mortify the sins of slothfulness/idleness and indolence, it's in the welfare of your never-dying soul.

Listen to me Christian: You will not grow in grace or mature in the faith of Christ if you're spiritually slothful and lazy.

The Holy Scriptures are replete with commands to us as the people of God to active, diligent, and disciplined in "working out your own salvation with fear and trembling," and to "hold fast the profession of your faith without wavering!"

Do you have a good spiritual work ethic? Are you diligent in your Father's business? 1): In study, meditation, and obedience to the Word of God, 2): In secret prayer, communion with God, and confessing your sins both to God and to those you've sinned against, 3): Are you an active, functioning member of the body of Christ in the church gatherings? Do you come to serve? Or are you waiting to be served?

The soul of the spiritually slothful will drop through like a rotten house; don't succumb to laziness, mortify it and kill it out of your life or it will lead you to worse sins!

Our great example in the Lord Jesus Christ: John 9:4: "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work". Romans 12:11, Hebrews 6:10-13, Proverbs 22:29

**Last of all; don't allow your earthly work and busy-ness to keep you of being diligent in your Father's business! The business of your soul!**