

The Seven Deadly Sins – Sloth

In the past three lessons I have introduced the sins which are often referred to as the seven deadly sins (lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, and pride) and discussed the first three. I want to reiterate here that I believe that all sin is deadly, and these sins are not identified in any list in Scripture as being any different from other sin. All sin is transgression of the law, and the wages of sin is death. I think, though, that it is worthwhile to look at these particular sins since they do seem to be at the root of many common sins. Perhaps that's why these were separated out by a pope (who, by the way, I do not give any more credence too than anyone else). Also, perhaps this is the reason that Satan keeps hindering me in completing these lessons. I ask you to pray for me that I might be able to complete these lessons on a more timely basis.

With that said let's look at the next of these sins – sloth. I think this is a sin that a lot of people are guilty of at times, especially when it comes to Church. The Scripture has a lot to say about slothfulness, so we're only going to touch the highlights in this lesson. Let's first look into the Proverbs. Proverbs 6:6-22 says:

- (6) Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:
- (7) Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,
- (8) Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest.
- (9) How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?
- (10) *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:
- (11) So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

So the wise king tells us that slothfulness leads to poverty and is unwise. Slothfulness, then, must be related to a lack of the fear of the Lord, since we're also told that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Psalm 111:10, Proverbs 1:7, Proverbs 9:10).

Proverbs 26:12-16 says:

- (12) Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.
- (13) The slothful *man* saith, *There is* a lion in the way; a lion *is* in the streets.
- (14) *As* the door turneth upon his hinges, so *doth* the slothful upon his bed.
- (15) The slothful hideth his hand in *his* bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.
- (16) The sluggard *is* wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

We're told here then that there is more hope for a fool than for a slothful man. The reason for this is obvious. The slothful is always looking for excuses, and becomes a master of

excuses. He sees a lion in the way and thinks everything to be insurmountable. He is unreasonable in his thoughts, and yet believes himself to be in the right. He is always there with his hand out seeking to benefit from the work of others.

The Preacher also tells us in Ecclesiastes 10:18 that slothfulness leads to the fall of a house through decay. This Scripture says:

(18) By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.

Now obviously this references the physical building, but I believe that it can reference the spiritual as well. If the Church is to thrive then the people of the Church must not be slothful. It takes a lot of work for the Church to function. That work is not just the Pastors, Sunday School Teachers, and other church officials. The Apostle Paul addressed this in 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, which says:

- (6) Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.
- (7) For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;
- (8) Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:
- (9) Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.
- (10) For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.
- (11) For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.
- (12) Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.
- (13) But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

So you see, slothfulness is NOT of God. Slothfulness is a tool that Satan uses to keep the Church at bay. In our modern day we need more than ever to be not weary in well doing. We need more than ever to show our salvation by our works.

Yours in Christ,

Bro. John Rich