



# NEW LIFE

## BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)*

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## THE CASE AGAINST SLOTH AND INDOLENCE

### Introduction

*"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."*  
James 4:17

**Diligence is vanishing fast and sloth and laziness is often the order of the day adversely affecting many.** Let us consider looking at some relevant verses on the topic of laziness and see what the Word of God has to say about them.

Proverbs 18:9 *"He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster."*

**When we are idle or lazy we have a tendency to be prone to sin and wasteful**, ie like throwing away good leftover food because we are too lazy to keep it or give it away to someone. When we do not feel like studying or working, wasting our time becomes very easy to do. Ephesians 5:15-16 says, *"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."* We have to remember our time, money, possessions, everything we think of as ours is really the Lord's and we are but **stewards of them and are accountable for the way we would use them!** It may be very easy to waste time, money and effort and have an excuse that makes us feel better, but when we stop to think about it in light of these things, we are wasting what belong to the Lord God Almighty instead of being good stewards over time and talents for Him.

Proverbs 21:25 *"The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour."*

This is strange and extraordinary that some are rewarded for laziness. In some states where there is social welfare like the US, Australia and the UK and parts of Europe, it makes economic sense for some not to work and get the state funded support than to work in a low paying job and get almost the same or less. Although some would get MORE if they work, but due to sloth, they...

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rather be jobless and get free money instead. Fallen man is often lazy and never contented. They may want something, but do not want to actually WORK for it! 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 says, *"And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing."*

Some have their fathers always paying for everything for them eventually, thus confirming our slothfulness more and more. Laziness is a curse to ourselves and a great disservice to others. May the Lord deliver us from such selfishness and indolence!

Proverbs 22:13 *"The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets."*

There is always an excuse we can find for our laziness, but how many of them are actually sound? There are many excuses like 'I am tired' or 'I don't feel like doing it' or 'I will do it tomorrow', that we give than when we look at them closely, it is very obvious that that is all that it is, an excuse. Most "reasons" we give for not being able to do something that needs to be done cannot really be a justifiable one. Next time you think of a reason why you cannot possibly do something, pray and tell it to God first and take a closer look at it and see just how unreasonable it would be before heaven. Recognize it and come out from laziness and overcome it and do it anyway! **DIN** stands for '**Do It Now**' or '**Delay It Not**'.

Proverbs 20:4 *"The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing."*

What does the Bible say will be the fruit of our laziness? We will be left out of the spiritual harvest and there will be no blessings or reward! A basic agricultural rule is that we reap what we sow (Galatians 6:9) and if we do not sow the seed and water and the crop, then do not expect any harvest of it at all. It is like a student who does not study hard for examinations should not expect to get good results or some who do not work should not expect to get paid a decent salary. We may beg and plead but we will be left in want rightfully in the end. Galatians 6:7-9 says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Proverbs 6:6 *"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:"*

There is an amazing tiny creature that is almost omnipresent. It is in the...

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house, the school, office, camp, garden, road, roof, and everywhere and it is always on the move. Have you seen a stationary ant before? That is a dead ant! We need to look at ourselves and recognize the slothful man in ourselves. What can we do to remedy this malady? God has given us the answer. Go to the ant and learn from it, He tells us.

Observe and emulate their organised and industrious ways. This is wise! Note what ants do in WORK. They work HARD and they work EFFICIENTLY. Ants are very organized; when they want to get the work done, it is not easy (except a can of Sheltox) to stop them. You can put all kinds of barriers (that the slothful would love to use as an excuse) in their way and they will find a way to overcome them. So determined are they, that when faced with a moat of water, the first in line will willingly drown so the next one can walk on its body and get a bit further! THAT is determination! That is finding a solution with hardwork in the strength of God even if it an uncomfortable one! Do we know and learn from an ant? Laziness should not stop them from getting done for the Lord what needs to get done. Let us watch and learn from them. That is what the Titus 2 women are all about! Teaching other poor young women and how to raise children and how to work hard effectively, thus blessing our husbands and households with the fruit of our labour (Titus 2:4-5).

## Conclusion

Romans 12:11 says, *"Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord"*. Indolence in the school, work, home or church is a real problem for some today and we need to address it. Is it a concern for you in 2008? **An idle mind is a devil's workshop. Deal with it as sin to be confessed and repented of before the Lord and ask Him to help** you to be industrious and hardworking for Christ. There will always be times in our lives when we need to rest and retire for a while, such as during an illness and hectic week of work, or just after the birth of a baby. These are times when you really must rest and relax. However, is our way of life is sleeping half the day and wasting our time away with excessive watching of the TV, playing computer games for many hours, or just loafing around with the SMS, listening to worldly music, pleasure and leisure without any honest labour done? Perhaps it is an opportune time to look at our heart and see if there is sloth residing there and deal with it accordingly. Let us be diligent to study and apply the Word of God (2 Timothy 2:15), pray to God and reach out to others with the gospel in the new year and diligently grow in the fear of God. **Remember idleness tempt the devil to tempt us!** Something to think and pray about.

*Rev Jack Sin, Maranatha B-P Church, S'pore  
(adapted from Maranatha Messenger 24 February 2008)*

**WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON**  
**CHURCH THEME: WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING. (Philippians 2:12)**

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm.**

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME
<b>Morning</b>	<i>Today: 02/03/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 09/03/2008</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	Pr Mark Chen	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mark Chen	Rev Basil Howlett	
<i>Message:</i>	The Prize You Should Seek	Tbd	NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<i>Text:</i>	Luke 12:29-32	Tbd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No Prayer Meeting:</b> Please note that there will be no Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study next Saturday, 8 Mar.</li> <li>• <b>Church Easter Camp – 21 to 24 Mar:</b> The speaker will be Ps Jeff O'Neil. The theme of the camp is "Godliness" (Theme verse is 1 Tim 4:7). For those who wish to assist with the logistics of the camp, please inform Anthony. Registration forms for the camp are now available. Please register by 16 Mar.</li> <li>• <b>Journey Mercies:</b> Pray for those who are travelling: Joyce &amp; Constance (Manchester), Jee &amp; Yanning (S'pore &amp; Taiwan), Joy (away at CU camp) and Pr Mok and Carol (returning to UK on 5 Mar).</li> <li>• <b>Mothering Sunday:</b> We would like to wish all mothers a Happy Mothers Day.</li> <li>• <b>Those serving on the Lord's Day:</b> Please gather behind the pulpit area at 10.30am for prayer.</li> <li>• <b>Be Punctual:</b> Please purpose in your heart to arrive on time for the worship services and church activities. Remember, "<i>habitual lateness dishonours God.</i>"</li> </ul>
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Anthony	
<b>Evening</b>			
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mark Chen	Rev Basil Howlett	
<i>Message:</i>	Backsliding Well	Tbd	
<i>Text:</i>	Psalms 119:176	Tbd	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Grace	Hubert	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 02/03/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 09/03/2008</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	Wah Soon/Evelyn	Daniel/Joyce	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	No Class	Joyce	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Maureen	Constance	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	No DHW Class	No DHW Class	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 7 Mar	7:30pm	<b>Young Adults Fellowship:</b> Prayer Meeting	
Sat 8 Mar		<b>Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study:</b> No Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
<b>Offering:</b>	£218.31	<b>Book Sales:</b> £10.00 <b>Lunch:</b> £33.25	
Memory Verse			
<i>Last Week (Feb 08 Wk 4): Psalm 1:6</i>			
For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.			
<i>This Week (Mar 08 Wk 1): Psalm 121:1</i>			
I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.			