

Proverbs provides a comparison (Lazy People vs those who Work Hard or are diligent)

Pro 13:4 NLT **Lazy people** *want much but get little*, but **those who work hard** will prosper.

The Bible describes laziness in many ways, here is an example of four of them

- Pro 26:13-16 NLT The lazy person claims, "There's a lion on the road! Yes, I'm sure there's a lion out there!" 14 As a door swings back and forth on its hinges, so the lazy person turns over in bed. 15 Lazy people take food in their hand but don't even lift it to their mouth. 16 Lazy people consider themselves smarter than seven wise counselors.

Four Ways To Overcome Laziness

1) Refuse to make lame excuses → Lazy say, "There's a lion on the road!"

2) Just start something (paralyzed by inactivity) → The lazy turn on the bed like a door on its hinges

- Pro 21:25 (NLT): "Despite their desires, the lazy will come to ruin, **for their hands refuse to work.**

3) Just finish something → The lazy, take food, but don't even lift it to their mouth

- Pro 12:27 (NLT) Lazy people **don't even cook the game they catch**, but the **diligent** make use of everything they find.

4) Let others speak into your life - take advice → The lazy think they're smarter than 7 wise counselors

- Pro 20:4 (NLT) Those too lazy to plow in the right season will have **no food at the harvest.**

A biblical view of work

God worked → as seen in creation

- Gen 2:1-3 ESV Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day **God finished his work** that he had done, and **he rested on the seventh day from all his work** that he had done.

He created man in his image

- Gen 1:27 ESV So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

He gave man work to do

- Gen 2:15 ESV The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Work is one way we express the image of God → in our work we create → all work is valuable

Work as unto the LORD

Col 3:23 NLT Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

Teach your children to work - it will be a blessing for the the rest of their lives

- Teach your children the value of work (Get a job, cut grass, babysit, clean a house)
- Don't give them everything - make them work for it, they will appreciate it more (phone, tablet, car, insurance, to play a sport, college)

Don't become a workaholic - there is a time for rest and it is necessary (Mk 6:31 Jesus come and rest)

Give to others as you prosper - to be rich in good works, thief, work with hands to give (Eph 4:28)

Be rich toward God - build bigger barns to store his crops - He was not rich toward God (Luk 12:21)