



Tonight's Message:

Lesson 20

God's Blessings Upon The Diligent

November 13, 2019

INTRODUCTION: Proverbs 12:24

We serve a God that desires to bless His people. God would rather bless than to judge a man. God blesses

_____ people. **Diligent:** "Steady application to business, prosecuted care." To live by discipline is a by-product of being Spirit-filled and Spirit-led (Gal. 5:22-23). The reward for faithful work is more work (22:29)! One of the blessings of the diligent is that they gain the trust of others because of their character, and that prepares them for _____ opportunities in the future (Matt. 25:21).

- Joseph was faithful and God brought him into the palace
- David was faithful with his sheep and God gave him an entire _____ to lead
- Joshua was faithful to follow Moses and God chose him to take Moses' place (4:7-8).

There is no substitute for hard work (10:4, 14:23). The world is full of willing people - some willing to work, others that are perfectly willing to let them. **What does Solomon have to say about diligent people?**

1. Diligent people plan their work and work their _____ - 16:3, 21:5

Thomas Edison said "I never did anything by accident, nor did any invention come by accident: they all came by work."

2. God blesses the labor of those who are honest - 13:11, 16:11

God expects _____ in both our words and our work (12:22).

3. God blesses diligent people for their generosity 11:24-25, 22:9

4. Diligent people are careful not to incur debts that they may not be able to handle - 22:7

In the day and age we live in, some debt is expected, but each of us should be diligent not to place on ourselves and our children unqualified indebtedness.

"When your outgo exceeds your income, your upkeep will be your downfall."

_____ is what the devil uses to get us into debt. Each of us should live at the level God wants us to live and be content with it (30:7-9). Our most important task in life is not to earn money, but to honor God and be kind to people God places on our path *Matt. 6:33*.

The real measure of our _____ is how much we would be worth if we lost all of our money. Character is more important than position and wisdom more important than possessions. God doesn't glorify poverty; neither does He magnify affluence.

5. Be aware of the _____ sense of security that wealth can bring - 11:28, 15:16-17, 23:4

6. Be careful not to judge a diligent man who has gained wealth, as earning it easily.

It is sad that in America today, we attack wealth-builders. None of us get ahead by attacking the successful. It is not the poor man who offers another man a job.

7. When God blesses our diligence with money or assets, we must be careful not to become proud - 18:11

"Wealth makes a great servant, but a terrible master."

8. The wrong attitude towards money and assets can destroy a friendship, home or _____ - 15:27

Christ teaches us to love _____ and use things, not to love things and use people. Parents should be careful in thinking that giving expensive gifts to their children will show or buy their love.

9. Wealthy people should plan and understand what their children will do with their wealth - 27:24

We should ask God for wisdom concerning leaving our wealth to our children. If our adult children do not work when they can and do not have an appreciation for the diligence it takes to gain wealth, it will destroy them if leave money for them. Riches will then become a _____ and not a blessing.