



Proverbs 24:30

(30) I went past the field of the sluggard,
past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment; (31) thorns had come up
everywhere,
the ground was covered with weeds,
and the stone wall was in ruins. (32) I applied my heart to what I observed
and learned a lesson from what I saw: (33) A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest- (34) and poverty will come on you like a bandit
and scarcity like an armed man.

New International Version

A person who is lazy lacks understanding. He is ignorant of what is happening. This person is not keeping his property in good condition, and so entropy is pulling it into a state of disorganization. That is the way of all material things. He is not doing enough to overcome inertia.

Proverbs has much to say about laziness. It does not matter whether the laziness is in physical or spiritual endeavors. The point here is that little or nothing will be produced by the slothful person.

Many people conquer laziness concerning physical things, such as business matters. I once heard a radio interview of a millionaire many times over who had become that way through a scheme that he took advantage of. It was perfectly legal; there was nothing wrong with it that way. This man said in response to a question, "You don't become rich being lazy. It takes hard work." That is what this passage in Proverbs 24 is saying.

We want to be spiritually rich. We want our relationships to be rich and to produce the right things, so to achieve this will require a good deal of effort on our parts. Secular people learn these principles and put them to work in business, and they prosper as a result of it. However, they avoid making the same effort in spiritual matters.

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Proverbs 24:30 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

In the church, this lack of effort produces [Laodiceanism](#). The Laodicean is rich and increased with goods, which means that he is doing all right in the business world, but he is not paying much attention to the spiritual. He is not using the same principles in regard to spiritual things that he does to physical things. Thus, he becomes reasonably well-off materially, but [God](#) says that, spiritually, he is wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked ([Revelation 3:17](#)).

We need this instruction from Proverbs because what we see in these verses will produce Laodiceanism in us unless we fight against it and overcome it.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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