



WISDOM THAT WORKS

A THEMATIC STUDY OF PROVERBS

#4: WISDOM AND PROCRASTINATION

JIM HINTON



Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones. Learn from their ways and become wise! Though they have no prince or governor or ruler to make them work, they labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter. But you, lazybones, how long will you sleep? When will you wake up? A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber.

Proverbs 6:6-11 (NLT)

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

I. WHAT IS THE PROBLEM WITH PROCRASTINATION?

Procrastination is a thief that...

1. Robs me of _____.

2. Robs me of _____.

3. Robs me of _____.

Nothing is so fatiguing as the eternal hanging on of an uncompleted task.

Dr. William James

II. WHY DO I PROCRASTINATE?

1. _____

Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper.
Proverbs 13:4 (NLT)

2. _____

God didn't give us a cowardly spirit but a spirit of power, love, and good judgment.
2 Timothy 1:7 (GOD'S WORD)

3. _____

Can a man hold fire against his chest and not be burned?
Proverbs 6:27 (TLB)

4. _____

If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.
Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NLT)

III. HOW CAN I OVERCOME PROCRASTINATION?

1. _____ the precious value of time.

Some of you say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to some city. We will stay there a year, do business, and make money." But you do not know what will happen tomorrow! Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away. So you should say, "If the Lord wants, we will live and do this or that."

James 4:13-14 (NCV)

I once read a thought provoking article entitled, 'If You Are 35, You Have 500 Days to Live'...Its thesis was that when you subtract the time spent sleeping, working, tending to personal matters, hygiene, odd chores, medical matters, eating, traveling, and miscellaneous time-stealers, in the next thirty-six years you will have roughly the equivalent of only five hundred days left to spend as you wish.

Tim Hansel

2. _____ God's purpose for me.

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living

Ephesians 1:11 (The Message)

3. _____ long term goals.

The naive believes everything, But the sensible man considers his steps.

Proverbs 14:15 (NASB)

When we aim at nothing we hit our target with amazing accuracy.

Unknown

4. _____ a short term "to do list".

Teach us to number our days and recognize how few they are; help us to spend them as we should.

Psalms 90:12 (TLB)

5. _____ **my list.**

Be sure you know how your flocks are doing. Pay careful attention to your herds. Riches don't last forever...

Proverbs 27:23-24a (NIRV)

6. _____ **my time and projects.**

Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

Proverbs 21:5 (NLT)

7. _____ **down tasks into smaller components.**

If you are too lazy to plow, don't expect a harvest.

Proverbs 20:4 (CEV)

8. _____ **help with decisions and accountability.**

Without advice plans go wrong, but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 15:22 (GOD'S WORD)

9. _____ **exaggerating the difficulty of tasks.**

The lazy person claims, "There's a lion out there! If I go outside, I might be killed!"

Proverbs 22:13 (NLT)

10. _____ **that "finished" is better than "perfect".**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)