

# THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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## **The Sluggard**

The book of Proverbs is the only book in our Bible that uses the Hebrew word *atsel* (sluggard). The word "sluggard" is found fourteen times in Proverbs. The meaning of the word is to be sluggish (lethargic, slothful, or slow moving) and lazy (idle and without energy). A close kin to the word "sluggard" is "slothful" and "slothfulness." When one is slothful he or she is idle, lazy, and without energy. The book of Proverbs uses these words three times (see Proverbs 12:24, 27; 19:15). We find these words also used in association with laziness and low energy at Judges 18:9; Ecclesiastes 10:18; Matthew 25:26; and Romans 12:11. Not one of the twenty one uses of the words sluggard, slothful, or slothfulness are used in a positive light (i.e., in a manner that shows God's acceptance).

The definition of the words sluggard, slothful, and slothfulness indicate an individual who is in no hurry and low of energy. This person's approach to life is a dull, tired, and low level of motivation. Proverbs depicts the person so depleted of energy that they are not even willing to lift the fork from the plate to the mouth (Proverbs 19:24; 26:15). The sluggard has a hard time getting out of bed because it is here that he feels most at home doing nothing (see Proverbs 6:9; 26:14).

The sluggard is opposed to labor of any sort. His hands refuse to be used for labor (Proverbs 21:25). The sloth is so opposed to labor that they will make up elaborate reasons for not working. Solomon writes, "*There is a lion somewhere outside... if I go out into the streets to labor I will be devoured*" (paraphrased from Proverbs 22:13). Many today have their own lions that protect their sluggard ways. Men decry, "Not safe," "it might rain," "car probably wont make it that far..." "I feel sick..." and so on. Any "lion" that can get them out of work they are going to use until someone else does the work for them.

## Local News:

### Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

### Please keep the following people in your prayers:

**Herb Sims** has shown signs of improvement. Herb's heart seems to be healthy; however, he is suffering from a bit of anxiety. Please keep him in your prayers.

**Patricia Robertson's** surgery went very well. She now has a pace maker installed and is recovering.

**Pat Harris**, mother of Erin Mixon, had her defibrillator installed and she too is doing well. Erin took her mom back home to Dallas yesterday.

**Women's Friday morning Bible Study** is now concluded.

### Summer Gospel Meeting:

Mark August 22nd through the 27th on your calendars for our 2010 summer gospel meeting. Dennis Scroggins of Lampasas Texas will be doing the preaching.

### Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

**Stella Davidson**  
696-1030 (Home)

**Calvin York**  
692-0489 (Home)

**Ila Belle Windham**  
(at home but request no calls for now)

Imagine working with the sluggard. With all jobs come tasks and individual responsibilities. One way or another these task and responsibilities must be met for the business to run effectively. The sluggard is a professional labor dodger. This will be the man or woman on the job who uses every excuse they can come up with to explain why they cannot do a certain job. They expect to be paid but they do not want others to expect much out of them. Such individuals are like smoke in the eyes and vinegar upon the teeth to all those who work with them (Proverbs 10:26).

Unfortunately the sluggard will bring trouble to not only his life but the lives of others around him. He has nothing because he will not work (proverbs 13:4). Due to his laziness he is reduced to begging for the necessities of life (Proverbs 20:4). Often times people feel compelled to help this person yet the word of God forbids such help (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12). If this person is a close family member he may need your help for a season (a place to stay, food to eat, water to drink, etc.). His slothful ways bring the burden of sustaining life upon his own family. He is a troublesome person to you and the Lord God Almighty.

The Lord has the solution to such a person. Solomon writes, "*Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: which having no chief, overseer, or ruler, provides her bread in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest*" (Proverbs 6:6-8). People should not have to be told, "Go get a job..." "Get out of bed and get to work..." "Open your eyes and take note that you have responsibilities to meet as an adult..." People should do these things as naturally as an ant that works throughout all four seasons.

Overall the book of Proverbs paints a picture of the sloth as being one who wants others to do things for him. Here is one who wants something for nothing. Here is one who believes that if people proclaim to be Christians they ought to help me in my time of need. Unfortunately the sluggard's time of need is twenty-four seven. They are smoke in the eyes and vinegar to the teeth of the upright man who exercises diligence in all areas of life.

Know this, that the runner who sets a world record didn't get there by a slouchy work ethic (1 Corinthians 9:24). The parents who deliver an inheritance to their children's children didn't obtain the wealth by sitting on their hands (Proverbs 13:22). Neither will the man or woman that makes it to heaven do it without due diligence (2 Timothy 2:15).

*John C. Robertson*

# The Wise contrasted with the Wicked

## Proverbs 13

### Introduction:

The book of Proverbs builds upon subjects and enlightens its readers of God's will for man. Three subjects of interest for chapter thirteen are training up a child in the way he should go, the way of the sluggard, and the rewards for one's decisions in life. The book, from an overall standpoint, reveals the fact that a life of Godliness is a life of happiness, contentment, and joy. The lives of the wicked are filled with trouble and hardships. Let us learn these lessons early in life that our eternal lives will also be happiness, contentment, and joyful.

### I. Train up a Child in the way he should Go:

- A. Children are to be taught to listen and obey their parents (Proverbs 13:1).
- B. Poverty and shame belong to all who are unwilling to listen and obey instructions and correction (Proverbs 13:18).
- C. Teach your children the importance of making friends who are Godly (Proverbs 13:20).
- D. The parent that "spares his rod hates his son..." (Proverbs 13:24; 23:13-14).

### II. The way of the Sluggard:

- A. The sluggard has been identified as a lazy person who will not work (see Proverbs 1:19; 6:6-11; 10:4-5, 26; 11:18; 12:11, 24, 27).
- B. The sluggard has desires for the things of this world; however, he is too lazy to obtain (Proverbs 13:4).
- C. The sluggard has all the same opportunities to make a living and eat that the diligent man does; however, he will not work (Proverbs 13:23, 25).

### III. The Rewards for one's Decisions in Life:

- A. The man who guards his tongue has happiness while the flooding mouth of the fool brings destruction to his life (Proverbs 13:2-3, 13, 16).
- B. Trouble comes to the wicked but riches, joy, and honor to the just (Proverbs 13:10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 21).

### Conclusion:

There are always consequences to the decisions we make. The wise (i.e., those with prudence, discretion, and foresight) will make careful decisions based on the perceived outcome. The foolish rushes headlong like an ox to the slaughter to do those things that are unjust, unrighteous, and wicked (Proverbs 7:20). Such men bring great trouble to their lives and the lives of their families. Those who make wise and just decisions; however, will bring happiness, contentment, joy, and wealth to themselves and their families not only in this life but in the life to come.