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CHAPTER 3

THE SLUGGARD

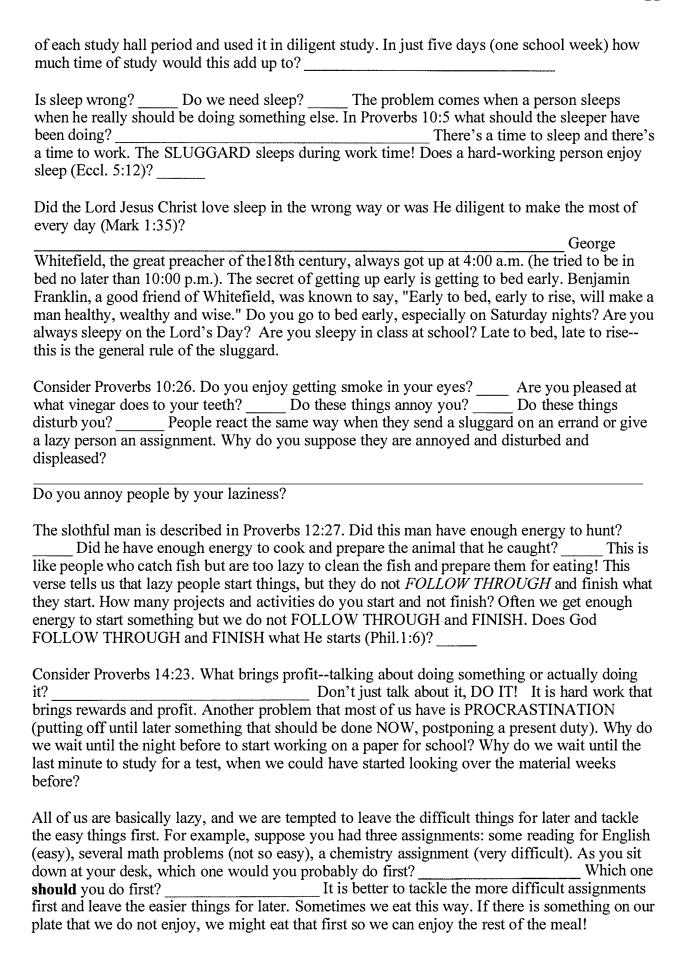
Do you desire to do better in school? Do you wish you could earn a higher grade in some of your courses (or in all of your courses)? Do you wish you could say something more intelligent when called upon in class? Do you desire to get more done and accomplish more things during the day? Do you want to be successful in life or do you want to be a failure? Do you want to make better use of your time? Are you a person who usually waits until the last minute to write a paper or study for a test?

Do you ever have a problem with laziness? Do you ever find yourself unwilling to act or work because you just don't feel like it? God has a special message for THE SLUGGARD (Proverbs 6:6). Since we all have this problem to some degree, we all need to pay attention to this message. A *sluggard* is a lazy person--one who likes to take it easy and would rather do anything but work. The opposite of a sluggard would be a diligent, industrious, hard-working person. Another word that describes a SLUGGARD is the word "slothful." Have you ever seen the animal known as the SLOTH? It appears that this animal loves to take it easy. It is a slow moving animal that hangs from branches (with his back downward). The word "slothful" is used to describe a slow moving person who loves to take it easy.

of your study hall period in school. Suppose you were given an hour to be in study hall. Many students waste this study time by talking or doing other things, but suppose you took 30 minutes

one week, these 10 minute periods would add up to how much time?

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If diligence and hard work are virtues and pleasing to God, then why do "Take it easy!" "Don't work too hard!"? Do we really want our friends think of something that would be better to say?	
Laziness pays terrible wages. According to Proverbs 20:4, why does the anything? If a man does not sow, should get also 2 Corinthians 9:6). It is usually true in life that whatesomething, that's how much we will get out of it! If you put little effort a something, you'll get little in return! If you work hard, you will reap the	d he expect to reap? ever we put into and work into
Does the lazy person desire many things (Proverbs 13:4)? Does ledesires (Prov. 13:4)? What kind of person does God want you to be	
Desire alone is not enough. You might desire good grades in school. You good college. You might desire to earn a certain amount of money. Is designed to make those desires come true. What if a man spends all Saturday after grass could be cut? He desires, but due to his slothfulness, not one blade	sire all that you need? oil and effort into living noon wishing that his
God works in the heart of the believer (see Philippians 2:13), not only to also to of His good pleasure! Desire is important, but desire is not DEEDS are both needed.	
Consider the second son described in Matthew 21:28-30. Did he desire (whe have good intentions? Are good intentions all we need?	verse 30)? Did
Can you think of ways you can be more diligent in the home?	
Can you think of ways you can be more diligent in school?	
Can you think of ways you can be more diligent in church?	
Suppose you are asked to do something which requires a certain amount diligence. Put a check $()$ before the things that should make you decide it, and put an "X" before the things that should not govern your decision:	whether you should do
Do I enjoy doing it? Do I feel like doing it? Am I responsible to do it? Are there other things I would rather do?	
Is it my duty to do it? Would it benefit myself and others if I do this? Will I be sorry if I don't do it?	

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Would it be pleasing to God?

May the Lord help us to work hard and to accomplish much for God's glory and for the good of others. True happiness comes to the person who is diligently serving God and others. In what ways do you serve God? In what ways do you serve others?

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ"

(Colossians 3:23-24).