

WEEK FIVE



PROVERBS

WISDOM FOR TODAY

CONSIDER THE SLUGGARD

JULY 5, 2026

PROVERBS 24:30-34
PASTOR PHIL WARD

SERMON OUTLINE NOTES

I. READING PROVERBS WELL

- A. To read Proverbs well, we must remember their purpose is that we may know wisdom and instruction in pursuit of understanding (**Proverbs 1:2-6**)
- B. To read Proverbs well, we must think about the circumstances of the proverb and its implications for today (**Proverbs 26:4-5**)

II. CONSIDER THE SLUGGARD AND RECEIVE INSTRUCTION (**Proverbs 24:30-34**)

- A. The sluggard's land is in disrepair (**Proverbs 24:30-31**)
 - 1. The sluggard is also a man lacking sense (**Proverbs 24:30; 9:4, 16; 12:11; 15:21; 4:23**)
 - 2. The sluggard allows his land to fall into disrepair (**Proverbs 24:31; Isaiah 34:13; Proverbs 10:26; 15:19; 18:9; 19:24; 20:4; 21:25; 22:13**)
- B. The wise contemplate reality and gain instruction (**Proverbs 24:32**)
 - 1. Good thinkers will respect reality and be wise (**Psalms 8:3-4; Isaiah 44:15-19**)
 - 2. The natural world was created in, by, and through God's wisdom so we can gain wisdom by considering it (**Matthew 6:26-30; Proverbs 6:6-8**)
- C. The sluggard became a fool by a series of small concessions (**Proverbs 24:33-34**)
 - 1. The sluggard refuses to work and chooses to sleep instead (**Proverbs 19:15; 26:14**)
 - 2. The sluggard will suffer want (**Proverbs 13:4; 20:4; 21:25, 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12**)

III. IN COMMUNION, WE REMEMBER THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IS POURED OUT FOR FORGIVENESS OF SINS (**Matthew 26:26-28**)

PROVERBS 24:30-34

I passed by the field of a sluggard,
by the vineyard of a man lacking sense,
³¹ and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns;
the ground was covered with nettles,
and its stone wall was broken down.
³² Then I saw and considered it;
I looked and received instruction.
³³ A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest,
³⁴ and poverty will come upon you like a robber,
and want like an armed man.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

? KIDS+STUDENTS

1. Why is it important to spend time thinking about the meaning of a proverb?

? KIDS

2. What is a sluggard? How would you describe the way a sluggard lives their life?

3. What constitutes a good thinker? How does respecting reality relate to good thinking and being wise?

4. What are some ways the natural world can impart wisdom? How have you benefitted from considering the natural world God created?

? STUDENTS

5. Do you think it is fair that a sluggard suffers want? Why or why not? How does your answer reflect the teaching of 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12?