

This means we are to glorify God by what we do with our bodies sexually and otherwise, how we live our life, and by what we put into our body.

#### 4. Money.

The Bible says that how we manage our money is an indicator of our spiritual condition and maturity. How we manage money is important because of the precedent we set for our children. It is also important to the poor, and to God's work (ministry and missions) through the church family of which we are a part.

**See Matthew 6:19-24 and meditate on it this week ----**

*"Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage— [18] to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. [19] If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.*

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (The Message)

#### 5. Our relationship with God.

**In Luke 12:13-21 --** Jesus tells a story about a man who got caught up in marketplace activities and was rich toward business and the stuff the world says is important to do, but he never got around to being rich toward God. When his life was over, he wasn't ready to face God and Jesus says that he was a fool. He didn't take the initiative to attend to his relationship with God. In telling us the story, Jesus is saying to us: 'Hey, don't make that mistake!' Are you rich towards God?

**God takes initiative in His relationship with us, and He is rich toward us with his love and forgiveness of our sin through Jesus. (See John 3:16). Will we trust Him for forgiveness and take initiative to not be a casual Christian, but to live our life for the Lord?**

## MESSAGE NOTES

### "Living Wisely: Life Lessons From Proverbs"

#### Part 3 of 13 - "Take Initiative"

#### Proverbs 6:6-11

**Introduction:** In the movie *Dead Poets Society*, the teacher says to his students "Carpe Diem – Seize the Day ... Make your lives extraordinary." He is saying take the initiative in life to grow and develop and progress – become all you can become. Don't be a "Someday Person" whose philosophy is "Carpe Manana" – I'll seize tomorrow, or tomorrow I will get around to it, or someday I will deal with the important issues in my life; because someday never comes. Tomorrow is never today.

Now if we were to put a spiritual overlay on this clip from the movie, it would be the theme from our Message Series on Proverbs that we are looking at this morning – *Take Initiative*. In Proverbs, the Bible says, *Take Initiative* when it comes to the way we live in every important area of our life. Don't be a "someday" person.

The book of Proverbs calls "someday" people – "Sluggards". This is not a very endearing term as it makes us think of a little snail or slug that's not making much progress. But when we put off what is important in life and say, I will get around to it, but we never do, then like the snail or the slug, we don't make progress.

#### Signs of Not Taking Initiative

##### 1. Being a "Someday Person" – \_\_\_\_\_. (Doing later what we really need to be doing now)

*"How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest -- and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man."*  
Proverbs 6:9-11 (NIV)

The Message: *"So how long are you going to laze around doing nothing? How long before you get out of bed? A nap here, a nap there, a day off here, a day off there, sit back, take it easy—do you know what comes next? Just this: You can look forward to a dirt-poor life, poverty your permanent houseguest!"*

## 2. Making \_\_\_\_\_.

*“The sluggard says, ‘There is a lion outside!’ or, ‘I will be murdered in the streets!’ ”* Proverbs 22:13 (NIV)  
New Living Translation: *“The lazy person is full of excuses, saying, ‘If I go outside, I might meet a lion in the street and be killed!’ ”*

Pretty vivid imagination, wouldn’t you agree? Some excuses that we make for not dealing with issues in our life are just about as absurd as saying there is a lion in the street.

When we find ourselves making excuses for a lack of diligence in doing something that is important in life or dealing with an issue that needs to be dealt with, we need to stop and say, this is trouble if I continue down this path in the way I am living my life.

No doubt most of us here this morning do not procrastinate or make excuses when it comes to many important aspects of our life. So we may tend to let ourselves off the hook by saying, I’m taking the initiative in like 9 out of 10 areas so what’s the deal?? I can’t be perfect!!! But what happens when the area being neglected is too important to neglect? The concern the writer of Proverbs has is for what Bill Hybels in his book *Making Life Work*, calls “Selective Sluggardliness”. – Those little pockets or carefully constructed compartments in our life where we avoid dealing with an issue.

Examples ----

### Taking Initiative

*“Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones. Learn from their ways and be wise! Even though they have no prince, governor, or ruler to make them work, they labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter.”* Proverbs 6:6-8 (NLT)

The ant takes initiative and it doesn’t procrastinate or make excuses. It knows what it needs to do and takes action. Are there areas in our life where we are humble enough to learn from the ways of an ant?

## Five Areas of Life to Examine (Be open to the prompting of God’s Spirit)

### 1. Relationships.

Family relationships, friendships, etc. When there is conflict and a relational breakdown, do we take the initiative to resolve the conflict and reconcile the relationship?

*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.* Romans 12:18 (NIV)

### 2. The workplace (For our students – your school).

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”* Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)  
(NLT: *Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.*)

Question: Are you doing your absolute best at your place of work or at school? Are you displaying your highest level of character? Are you displaying genuine concern for others, even pointing them to Jesus and a relationship with him? Are you setting the standard at your place of work or school when it comes to ethics, honesty, conscientiousness, promptness, and an attitude of love for others? Do you do every project as though doing it for God?

### 3. Our physical body.

*“Or don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.”* 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT)

The Message: *Or didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you. God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body.*