

**Message #110****Proverbs 26:13-16**

God desires that no matter what we do, we do it heartily unto Him (Col. 3:23). There are not too many things God detests any worse than laziness.

**WISE PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THE CHARACTERISTICS AND SYMPTOMS OF ONE LAZY, AND CHOOSE NOT TO BE LAZY.**

**SYMPTOM #1** – Lazy people will invent bizarre excuses for not working. **26:13**

The word “sluggard,” which occurs four times in four verses, refers to one who leaves or neglects his responsibilities, one who is at leisure, one who is lax. Dr. Charles Bridges says a slothful man is “...ingenious for inventing excuses” for not working. The excuse here is that there may be a lion out in the streets on the prowl and this becomes an excuse for not going to work. There are two different words used for “lion”; the first refers to an older lion and the second refers to a younger, fierce lion. By using the two different Hebrew words, the sluggard covers any potential lion of any age or any place. Obviously, no city government in our age or Hezekiah’s would permit a lion to wander into public places. But as Matthew Henry said, the lion that has the sluggard is the roaring lion, Satan.

**SYMPTOM #2** – Lazy people will always return to their rest philosophy. **26:14**

Lazy people are not only afraid of work, they are in love with ease. They need rest from work they haven’t even done. A door that turns on its hinges is one that swings one way for a moment or two and then another way for a moment or two, but never really goes anywhere. So it is with one lazy—he will always refer to his dormant rest position, never finishing anything and never going anyplace.

**SYMPTOM #3** – Lazy people are too fatigued to even do necessary tasks. **26:15**

The word “weary” is one that means to be weary, to be fatigued, to be exhausted. The lazy person is too exhausted even to feed himself and he hasn’t done any work to tire himself out. Two forms of spiritual laziness must be detestable to God: 1) The pastor/teacher too lazy to prepare good meals for his flock; 2) The flock too lazy to come eat good, prepared meals.

**SYMPTOM #4** – Lazy people are too conceited to change. **26:16**

Here is the root cause of his problem—the lazy fool will not change because of the high opinion he has of himself. He will not listen to reason no matter how complete or how right or authoritative. Lazy people are too lazy to research, listen, and think and yet in their own minds they are wise.

To be a lazy person is to be a fool. To face God, having been lazy, is to face God as a loser.