

**I. The Sin and Vanity of Idleness (v 5)**

- A.** The temptation to idleness in industry
- B.** What is idleness?
  - 1)** What idleness is not
    - a)** Idleness is not necessarily a lack of productivity
    - b)** Idleness is not necessarily the enjoyment of recreation
    - c)** Idleness is not necessarily physically resting
    - d)** Idleness is not saying no to things unnecessary or unprofitable
  - 2)** What is idleness, laziness, sloth?
    - a)** The neglect of duty and employment
    - b)** Contentment with the wrong things, so as to deter our employment in the right things
- C.** Idleness is not a matter indifferent (1 Thes 5:14)
- D.** The sinfulness of idleness
  - 1)** Contrary to the expressed command of God (Pr 6:6)
  - 2)** Contrary to the general principles of God's Word (Pr 31:27)
  - 3)** Contrary to the light of nature in the creation ordinance (Gen 2:15)
  - 4)** Idleness is contrary to the royal law of love (Jms 2:8)
- E.** The seriousness of idleness
  - 1)** Leads to envy and covetousness (Pr 13:4)
  - 2)** Leads to immorality of all kinds (Pr 23:21)
  - 3)** Leads to gossip and busybodies (1 Tim 5:13)
  - 4)** Because idleness is a particularly shameful sin, it is one that is often concealed.
  - 5)** Because idleness is a particularly shameful sin, it often produces anger or worldly sorrow when confronted.
- F.** The vanity of idleness
  - 1)** The idle will consume themselves (Pr 21:25)
  - 2)** The idle are vaporous because they will leave nothing to be remembered by.
  - 3)** The idle do not know how to steward their prosperity (Pr 19:24)

- 4)** The idle, ironically, will end up having to work harder (Pr 12:24; Lam 3:27).
- 5)** Idleness leads to the fleetingness of an early death (2 Thes 3:10)
- G.** Uses from the Text
  - 1)** Be on guard against idleness (Pr 20:13)
  - 2)** Heed the threatenings of God against idleness (Gen 3:6b, 23; Rev 3:16)
  - 3)** Fill brief times of idleness with some common employment, or in spiritual employments
  - 4)** Thoughtfully fill lengthy times of idleness with some kind of employment
  - 5)** Beware the sin of spiritual idleness (Gal 5:25-26)

**II. The Remedies to Envy and Idleness (v 6)**

- A.** What does *a handful of quietness* mean?
- B.** What is meant by *both hands full, together with toil and grasping for the wind*?
- C.** How do these two differ? The (1) nature of hands, (2) number of hands, (3) object in hands, (4) the effect on the person
- D.** Why is a handful of quietness better than both hands full of toil? The (1) nature of hands, (2) number of hands, (3) object in hands, (4) the effect on the person
- E.** What, then, are the remedies to envy, idleness, and the vanity of industry?
  - 1)** Faith (Heidelberg Catechism 60; Col 1:20)
  - 2)** Contentment (Heb 13:5-6)
- F.** Uses from the Text
  - 1)** Let us have a true rest in the Redeemer (Psa 46:10-11)
  - 2)** A godly life is most often marked by quiet obedience over a long time (1 Tim 2:1-3)
  - 3)** Looking to the eternal rest, as we have the redemption and victory of Christ (Psa 27:1-2)