

Today's Word Study

Wednesday, January 9, 2013 | Author: **Elder A. Lundy**

*“Go to the ant, thou **sluggard**; consider her ways, and be wise:”* Prov. 6:6 KJV

Sluggard - Proverbs continues to provide wise counsel to those who will lend an ear and hear (Shama in the Hebrew, meaning to obey). Here, King Solomon offers three commands to the sluggard. Go to the ant, consider and be wise. The word sluggard occurs only six times in the scriptures: Proverbs 6:6, 6:9, 10:26, 13:4, 20:4 and 26:16. The Hebrew word is *atsel* from Strong's #6101, spelled with three Hebrew letters (not to be addressed here). It is an adjective and means indolent: - sluggish, lazy. It's root word is *atsal*, Strong's #6101 meaning to lean idly. The Gesenius Lexicon provides a more definitive insight – to be at leisure. It states, “the primary idea is appears to be that of laxity and languor.”

The Maxwell Leadership describes the sluggard as being worthless to the kingdom, who, unlike the ant, “refuses to work hard during the growing season and so has nothing at harvest time.” This is indeed a sad case. He goes on to say, “The sluggard makes only one commitment: to his leisure. He'll try any excuse to shy away from honest labor; even excusing himself through irrational claims of danger”, as in Proverbs 22:13 where it states, “The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets. Maxwell goes on to say that “The sluggard in the physical sense does nothing for the world around him; he leaves it unchanged, except for pillaging some of its resources. The sluggard in the spiritual sense is little different; he leaves the world no better than he found it, and perhaps a little poorer.” The same can be said of leaders who become lazy and fail to take God's assignment serious. Jesus said is well in Matthew 5:13:

“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”

Surely, we must understand that our Lord and savior Jesus Christ was not talking to the world but His disciples.

In his commentary on the book of Proverbs, J. Vernon McGee thinks one of the greatest sins among Christians today (book Copyright 1991) is laziness. I have to agree. And goes on to say that many of those in full service to God fall in this lazy category. Wow! The question is this: How are we (I am included) spending our spare time: Reading and studying the Word or focused too much on worldly affairs. Just the other day, I heard a man say that those who are supposedly in the Body today, do not know the Word of God and some have been in the “church” for many years. Yep! The ant does have a word for the church. It is time to go the way of the ant today. Tomorrow, we shall take a closer look at the **ant** --- who from my experience is not lazy in any respect. They are always busy --- and if you see one, you can best believe, there are more with him --- teaming to get the job done. Are you and ant or a sluggard? Hmmm!