

Message #20**Proverbs 6:1-11**

Gambling and laziness are two tried and proven ways to go bankrupt. When it comes to the subject of money, it is not that God wants us rich; He just doesn't want us to be foolish.

AVOID GOING INTO DEBT TO FINANCIALLY SPECULATE AND AVOID LAZINESS OR YOU WILL END UP IN SEVERE POVERTY.

CHALLENGE #1 – The challenge to get out of speculative debt. **6:1-5**

To understand this section, we must understand “surety” which simply means you offer to pay someone else's debt. It was a person who became legally responsible for someone else's debt. Solomon thought this was one of the most foolish things a person could do (Prov. 11:15; 17:18; 20:16; 22:26; 27:13).

According to the Septuagint (Greek translation of Hebrew O.T.), the “if” clause of **verse 1** is a third class conditional clause indicating there was a very good probability that this situation did exist.

Solomon gives his son three steps to take if he had fallen for such a scheme:

Step #1 - Purpose to deliver yourself from your error. **6:3a**

The word “deliver” (**6:3, 5**) is one that means to save oneself and escape.

Step #2 - Purpose to humble yourself in order to become free. **6:3b**

The word “humble” is very expressive and presents the idea of falling on the ground and allowing yourself to be trampled.

Solomon says you go to the person you agreed to financially back and throw yourself down and let him walk on you, let him call you names, let him think what he wants, but do whatever it takes to free yourself from this responsibility.

Step #3 - Purpose to bother your neighbor until he sets you free. **6:3c-5**

The word “importune” (**v. 3**) is one that means to fiercely rage. Solomon is saying verbally bother your neighbor until he frees you from your financial responsibilities. **Verse 4** says don't rest until it is accomplished. **Verse 5** says fight like a wild animal or bird until he will let you go.

CHALLENGE #2 – The challenge to stop being lazy. **6:6-11**

It is very interesting that Solomon calls his own son a sluggard (**6:6, 9**).

An important part of wisdom is being truthful, even concerning your close relatives.

The actual word “sluggard” is one that means to leave and neglect, to be at leisure. To illustrate the point of how Solomon wants his own son to develop, he uses an illustration of an ant (**6:6-8**).

There are two main points he wants to communicate:

Point #1 - No one has to tell an ant to work hard. **6:7**

The words of **verse 7** refer to some type of management or labor police force. What Solomon says is the ant works hard without any supervision.

Point #2 - No one has to tell the ant to work for future needs. **6:8**

In light of the preceding context, it seems that Solomon is stressing to his son that you meet your needs the best not by a get-rich-scheme, but by hard, disciplined work.

Solomon does not ease up on his own son; in **verses 9-10** he challenges his son to wake-up from his laziness and get to work.

In **verse 10** he anticipates the answer the sluggard gives—procrastination.

In **verse 11** Solomon gives the conclusion for one who has the mindset of laziness, namely, certain and irresistible poverty. The Hebrew word “poverty” speaks of the highest level of poverty—total destitution.

I really appreciate Charles Bridges, who particularly relates this text not just to finances, but also to spirituality. How long does one continue to sleep in sin? How long until a sluggard will change his sinful ways?