

# Diligence Conference

## Message One: The Diligent Man

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### Introduction:

#### A. A Vision for Excellence

*Proverbs 24:30-34 (ESV)*

<sup>30</sup> I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, <sup>31</sup> and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. <sup>32</sup> Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. <sup>33</sup> A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, <sup>34</sup> and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

#### B. Three Components: Vision, Definition and Promise

##### i. Vision motivates.

**CJ writes in his blog (provided as a resource):**

Just Do It

by [C.J. Mahaney](#) 11/21/2008 1:40:00 PM

I tend to procrastinate. So to fight that tendency, I've posted the following quote from a nineteenth-century preacher under my computer monitor. I hope these words inspire you to attend diligently to the most important matters each day, by God's grace.

It reads:

*No unwelcome tasks become any the less unwelcome by putting them off till tomorrow. It is only when they are behind us and done, that we begin to find that there is a*

*sweetness to be tasted afterwards, and that the remembrance of unwelcome duties unhesitatingly done is welcome and pleasant. Accomplished, they are full of blessing, and there is a smile on their faces as they leave us. Undone, they stand threatening and disturbing our tranquility, and hindering our communion with God. If there be lying before you any bit of work from which you shrink, go straight up to it, and do it at once. The only way to get rid of it is to do it.*

-Alexander MacLaren (1826–1910), Scottish preacher

ii. **Definition educates.**

iii. **Promise actuates (empowers).**

## **12 Marks of the Diligent Man**

1. **The diligent man does not does not procrastinate.**

**Proverbs 6:9-11 (ESV)**

How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? <sup>10</sup> A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, <sup>11</sup> and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

## **2. A diligent man starts early and plans well.**

**Proverbs 6:9-11 (ESV) – See above**

**Proverbs 27:1 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

**Proverbs 20:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.

**Proverbs 21:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

## **3. A diligent man has overcome the love of sleep.**

**Proverbs 10:4-5 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. <sup>5</sup> He who gathers in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.

**Proverbs 19:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.

**Proverbs 20:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.

**Proverbs 26:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed.

#### **4. The diligent man is not impetuous.**

##### **Proverbs 13:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

##### **Proverbs 13:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.

#### **5. The diligent man works hard.**

##### **Proverbs 28:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

##### **Proverbs 14:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> In all toil [hard work] there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.

#### **6. The diligent man does not chase fantasies (get rich schemes and short-cuts).**

##### **Proverbs 12:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits [fantasies] lacks sense.

##### **Proverbs 28:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

##### **Proverbs 16:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> A just balance and scales are the LORD's; all the weights in the bag are his work.

#### **7. The diligent man is a dependable messenger.**

### **Proverbs 10:26 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup> Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him.

### **Proverbs 12:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits [fantasies] lacks sense.

### **Proverbs 25:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the soul of his masters.

## **8. The diligent man overcomes obstacles (with integrity).**

### **Proverbs 15:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> The way of a sluggard is like a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a level highway.

*“The sluggard is contrasted, a little unexpectedly, with the upright or straightforward – a reminder (a) that there is an element of dishonesty in laziness (trying to sidestep the facts and one’s share of the load); (b) that the straight course is ultimately the easiest.”* Derek Kidner

### **Proverbs 22:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> The sluggard says, “There is a lion outside! I shall be killed in the streets!”

## **Note on Diligence and Integrity**

### **Proverbs 4:25-27 ESV (following up on the path of the upright in 15:19)**

<sup>25</sup> Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you.

<sup>26</sup> Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure.

<sup>27</sup> Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.

1. Consider (Establish the Goal) (25)
2. Carefully Plan (26) - NIV “make level paths = Ponder (ESV) or “take heed”
3. Stick to the Plan (27)

**9. The diligent man is productive and not destructive.**

**Proverbs 18:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.

**10. The diligent man delays gratification.**

**Proverbs 21:25-26 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor. <sup>26</sup> All day long he craves and craves, but the righteous gives and does not hold back.

**Proverbs 30:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> The leech has two daughters; “Give” and “Give,” they cry. Three things are never satisfied; four never say, “Enough”:

**Proverbs 13:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

**11. A diligent man attends to details.**

**Proverbs 26:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth.

**12. The diligent man follows through.**

**Proverbs 12:27 (ESV)**

<sup>27</sup> Whoever is slothful will not roast his game, but the diligent man will get precious wealth.