

Elton Faw cett said to me a while ago whenever you research material for a message you will always find that you have more material than you will use but what ever you do don't throw it out because you may need it sometime in the future for another message well that is exactly what has happened.

A while ago I spoke about the angel of the Lord cursing a small Napthalian village called Meroz but not only that The angel of the Lord also called Meroz an it, however some bibles translate it as thereof.

The sin of Meroz was that it was inactive because the towns people did not answer the Lord's call to arms when they were called they sat idly by and did nothing nothing at all.

When we are called by the Lord we need to be active active means to do something to do anything other than sit and grow old just watching the days go slowly by us.

There is another name for inaction and it is used quite a lot in the bible it's called lazy or slothful which means just plain lazy and there are also several other words in the bible which mean the same thing.

And as I also said in my last message I am not making a judgment this unfortunately is a fact there will be according to [Matthew 25:41](#) some very decent folks turned away from the kingdom of heaven not just because they did the wrong thing but because they failed to do much of anything that was right. Or as I put it last time they failed to do the right thing. Righteousness means doing just that doing what is right.

A study of the Bible shows clearly that God's emphasis is on work and His warning to us is against laziness inaction and just doing nothing.

Let me give you a couple of examples.

The word slothful is found fifteen times in the Bible.

Idle or idleness is found fourteen times.

The word sluggard six times.

The word lazy is not even mentioned in the KJV bible at all however those 3 words all mean lazy.

Now lets flip the coin over to the reverse side the word work is mentioned a whopping four hundred and nineteen times.

and Labour eighty nine times.

So you judge for yourselves which weighs heavier on God's mind work or laziness.

I would tend to lean towards work myself.

This poem would suit good ol Pa Kettle I think that you are all old enough to remember the old Ma and Pa Kettle movies his favourite line was "I'll have to fix that one day Ma"

The poem goes.

He slept beneath the moon,

He basked beneath the sun;

He lived a life of going-to-do,

And died with nothing done

He lived a life of going to do and died with nothing done now isn't that a fit summary of many a persons life.

I don't know how many times I have put off doing something only to have it come back and bite me on the backside just because I was just too lazy to do it too lazy to get off my backside and do something like spending a minute or two fixing what I had put off.

That was ol Pa Kettles problem he put everything off he had one excuse after another until finally the house began to slowly fall down around him. He had a hole in the water tank which he put off fixing so when it rained his tank leaked all the water out because he just was too lazy to fix it.

The roof leaked because he was just too lazy to nail a shingle over the hole.

The chair leg broke because he was just too lazy to screw a screw into the leg to hold it together.

And so on and so on I think you are getting the picture.

We used to laugh at those old Ma and Pa Kettle movies but sad to say there are far too many Pa Kettles in the world when it comes to building their spiritual house and Suring it up most people are just laying stubble and what did Paul tell us in.

1Corinthians 3:9-15 For we are God's fellow workers, and you are God's husbandry, even God's building. As a wise architect according to the grace of God that was given to me, I have laid the foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each one take heed how he builds upon it. For no one is able to lay any other foundation besides that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay or stubble; the work of each will be manifested, for the day of trial will declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall prove what kind of work each one's is. If the work that anyone has built endures, he shall receive a reward. If the work of anyone is burned up, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet as through fire.

Those who lay wood hay or stubble are the sluggards and the only way to make sure that our house withstands the fiery trial and to prove our work is by reading the scriptures daily and that means every day. What did the prophet Isaiah say in [Isaiah 28:10](#) **For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:**

Here a little and there a little in other words don't be lazy search look for the answers dig here and dig over there if you really want to find the real hidden treasure.

What did our Lord say when He went up on the mountain in [Matthew 5:6](#) because what the Lord said was intended for us here today just as much as it was for those who heard the Lord speak that day the Lord said **blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.**

How do we hunger and thirst after righteousness which is the opposite of unrighteousness. Well we start as found in [Psalm 111:10](#) **the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, a good understanding have all those who do His commandments, His praise endures forever. and then go to [Proverbs 2:1-9](#) My son, if you will receive my words and treasure up my commandments within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding, yea if you cry after knowledge and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasure, then you shall understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God, for the Lord gives wisdom, out of His mouth comes knowledge and understanding, He lays us sound wisdom for the**

righteous, He is a shield to those who walk up
righteously, He keeps the paths of right judgment and
preserves the way of His saints, then you shall
understand righteousness and judgment and equity,
every good path.

Acts 17:10-11 tells us about the Bereans that they
were more noble than those in Thessalonica, for they
received the word with all readiness of mind and
examined the scriptures daily to see if these things
were so.

Notice that those verses in Proverbs 2:1-9 contained
no less than three IFS if means that it is conditional
if you want to sit and do nothing then cobwebs will
begin to grow on you but if you get up and walk
around they will not.

If is like lazy and work as against inaction and action.
If you really want to seek after wisdom and
understanding and if you are willing to search for it in
the scriptures daily then you will find it.

Remember the servant who was given the one talent
by the Lord He was not condemned for wasting his
talent on wine women and song was he.

And he was not accused of being an evil person.

And he didn't steal a talent from the man who had the
two talents nor did he cheat a talent from the man
who had five talents in business.

Why well maybe because he was just lazy he was
slothful.

And really his only sin was doing nothing because he
was lazy he was slothful.

What did the Lord say to him in Matthew 25:26 **you
wicked and slothful servant, you knew that I reap
where I did not sow, and gather what I did not scatter,
because you knew this, you were duty bound to take**

my talent to the money changers, so that when I came, I could receive my own with interest.

At the very least all he had to do was take the talent to where it would earn interest just carry it there that's all but he didn't.

What was the very first command that the Lord gave to Adam other than be fruitful and multiply and subdue the Earth now you should all know the answer without even looking at your bibles???

Well it's found in.

Genesis 2:15 and the Lord took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to dress and keep it. the word keep also means to guard as strange as it may sound.

It would be unreasonable to think that God simply placed Adam in the garden without telling or commanding him to dress it or keep it so one of the very first commands which Adam received from the Lord was a command of action and that action being that of work Adam had to do something he was not to sit idle and watch the Chimpanzees do all the work for him.

If we are told to search the scriptures daily then that is work that is doing something positive if we let the Chimpanzees do all the searching and reading we will end up with a planet of the apes because they will know more than we know about God.

What was the second command.

Genesis 2:16 and the Lord commanded the man saying, you may eat freely of every tree in the garden.

Well eating is again work because food had to be first cared for then gathered by Adam before he could eat it.

And the third command which Adam received is found in [Genesis 2:17](#) which says **but you shall not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for in the day that you eat of it in dying you shall surely die.**

That was a command of warning that was a command not to sit back and look at it not touch it and definitely not to eat of it.

The tree i feel was like a lure or a bait it was i feel a test by God to see if Adam would take the bait just as Satan has many enticements or baits which he waits and uses on us and each bait through our own choice no one else's may cause us to sin.

And the fourth command was given from the Lord to Adam to name all of the animals I still wonder how did Adam come up with the name Platypus.

Now here is the reward if- if we do not let the Chimpanzees do all the reading for us and it is found in [Revelation 22:14](#) **Blessed are those who keep His commandments, that they may have the right to eat of the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.**

The reward is to finally eat from the tree which was taken away from Adam and Eve in [Genesis 2:9](#) by the Lord, because they failed to obey His command now the tree of life which was in the garden of Eden with Adam and Eve which they could have ate from because they were not commanded by God that they could not eat it but unfortunately they chose to eat from the other tree which they were commanded not to eat from so those who get access to the tree of life also gain access into the city the wonderful Kingdom of Heaven.

Who is excluded from the city, well verse 15 says, but excluded are dogs, and sorcerers, and fornicators, and murderers, and idolaters, and everyone who loves and devises a lie.

So it's everyone who not just invents or devises a lie who will be excluded it is everyone who loves the lie, who obeys the lie and that is not me saying that that is what the bible says.

So that is why it is so important that we search the scriptures daily so that we can recognise a lie. What a fantastic reward and all that we have to do is a little work my bible from Genesis to Revelation chapter 22 has 1204 pages so to put it simply, and to read the bible in a 360 day year all I have to do is just read three and one third pages a day it's as simple as that.

Paul Hudson gave us an example a while ago on just how long that takes.

I will look at a few more verses about being lazy or slothful in a minute but first I found this wonderful story that I would like to share with you its about positive thinking and having a good attitude to life and work no matter what the circumstances.

A landscape gardener ran a business that had been in the family for three generations.

The staff were happy and his customers loved to visit His store or to have the staff work in their gardens or for them to make deliveries to their home or business delivering anything from bedding plants to ride on mowers.

For as long as anyone could remember the current owner and previous generations of his family were extremely positive and happy people.

Most folk assumed that it was because they ran a successful business.

In fact it was the other way around...

A tradition in the family business was that the owner always wore a big lapel badge saying Business Is Great!

The business was indeed generally great although it went through tough times just like any other business.

What never changed however was the owner's attitude and the badge saying Business Is Great!

Everyone who saw the badge for the first time invariably asked "What's so great about business?"

Sometimes people would also comment that their own business was miserable or even that they personally were miserable or stressed.

Anyhow the Business Is Great! badge always tended to start a conversation which typically involved the owner talking about lots of positive aspects of business and work for example.

The pleasure of meeting and talking with different people every day.

The reward that comes from his helping staff who were willing to take on new challenges and experiences.

The fun and laughter in a relaxed and healthy work environment.

The fascination in the work itself and in the other people's work and businesses.

The great feeling you get when you finish a job and do it to the best of your ability.

The new things you learn every day even without looking to do so.

And the thought that everyone in business is blessed because there are many millions of people who would swap their own situation to have the same opportunities of doing a productive meaningful job in

a civilized well fed country where we have no real worries.

And so the list went on.

And no matter how miserable a person was they'd usually end up feeling a lot happier after just a couple of minutes listening to all this infectious enthusiasm and positivity.

It is impossible to measure attitude like this but to one extent or another it's probably a self fulfilling prophecy on which point if asked about the badge in a quiet moment the business owner would confide:

"The badge came first.
The great business followed."

What a great attitude to have he was not downhearted like some of his customers were and he and his staff were certainly not lazy.

In tough times being lazy just makes the situation worse and you may feel as though you are in a hole but laziness just makes the hole a whole lot wider and a whole lot deeper.

We can all learn from that story but instead of us wearing a lapel badge which says business is great we could wear a lapel badge saying God is great or isn't Life great.

I wonder how many positive comments we would receive if we wore a badge saying that.

A wise man once wrote **For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty, and sleepiness shall clothe a man with rags,** that's from [Proverbs 23:21](#)

[Proverbs 19:15](#) tells us **laziness throws one into a deep sleep, and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.**

What about [Proverbs 6:9](#) **how long will you sleep, O sluggard? when will you arise out of your sleep.**

Those verses are all about being lazy laziness and drunkenness seem to be closely associated they follow each other around like a bad smell laziness and drunkenness puts you into a sleep being another form of laziness for an already lazy person.

There are so many people out there who feel that the world owes them they feel that the world owes them a living and they themselves do not owe the world or anyone anything, now that's a bad attitude to have laziness and drunkenness produces this type of crazy reasoning because laziness and drunkenness has to somehow justify itself.

And there are many people who fake a disability just to get on a pension why because they are just too lazy to look for a job.

If a man is fit then he should look for and find a job.

When Paul was in Corinth he worked for a living and then preached in the synagogues on the Sabbath it is recorded in [Acts 18:3-4](#) and because he was of the same trade, he dwelt with them and worked, for they were tent makers by trade, and he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

Paul was not lazy he worked Paul was a man of action.

Paul went one step further in his second letter to the Thessalonians Paul wrote in chapter 3 verse 10, that if anyone is not willing to work, he should not be allowed to eat.

[Proverbs 26:14-15](#) is also a great lesson As the door turns upon its hinges, so does the lazy man turn upon

his bed. The lazy man hides his hand in his bosom; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth.

Genesis 3:19 Tells us that God intended for man to work not sit idly by and watch others do it.

Adam was a gardener.

Noah was a boat builder and preacher.

Abraham was a shepherd.

David was a musician, shepherd, and a great King.

And David was a man after the LORD'S own heart.

Peter, James, and John were fishermen.

Matthew was a tax collector.

Luke was a doctor.

John the Baptist baptized and preached.

Cornelius was a soldier.

Paul was a tentmaker and preacher.

Jesus was a carpenter's son a world builder a prophet a preacher a world Saviour and He is Lord of all.

Unfortunately working for a living to some seems offensive.

Now that may sound hard but God's wisdom is seen in the story of a thirty six year old New Yorker.

The Associated Press quoted him as saying I like to live decent I like to be clean.

Now there's nothing wrong with that; the only problem was he didn't like to work.

So he found other ways to satisfy his cultured tastes.

He would walk into a fine restaurant and order for himself top cuisine and choice liquor and then when the check arrived he would shrug his shoulders and wait for the police to come.

The sometimes homeless man actually wanted to end up in the slammer where he knew that would get three meals a day and a clean bed.

He pleaded guilty to stealing a meal from a restaurant a total of thirty one times.

In 1994 he served ninety days in jail for snatching a meal from a café in Rockefeller Center.

Sadly New York taxpayers have paid more than a quarter of a million dollars over five years to try feed clothe and house one lazy man!

God made man to work not to steal his daily bread.

There is a popular saying Idle hands are the devil's workshop.

And a person who does not have something to occupy himself with will soon be tempted to occupy himself with sin.

The phrasing is not found in the Bible but i feel it certainly has its roots in scripture.

I Timothy 5:13 says, And besides this, they also learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and they not only become idle, but they also become talebearers and busybodies, speaking things that ought not be spoken.

The devil will find work of mischief for idle hands to do.

If the Devil finds a Man who is idle don't worry he will set him to work.

For those reasons all Christians are commanded to work not to be idle or lazy reading your bible is working why? because it keeps your mind occupied and healthy but you must also keep your hands busy as well.

In **II Thessalonians 3:10-12** we read **For indeed when we were with you, this is what we commanded you: that If anyone is not willing to work, he should not be allowed to eat. For we hear that there some among you are walking irresponsibly, not working at all, but**

are behaving as busybodies. as for such individuals, we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ that with quietness they work in order that they may eat their own food.

As Matthew Henry said in regard to [2 Corinthians 5:10](#) It is common for men who will not do their duty to pretend they cannot.

But God will judge all such behaviour .

A busybody or talebearer has nothing more to do than take a true story about someone or something and then change all the facts around so as to make the true story sound better and so the story travels along the line from one tale bearer to another.

And if there were 3 or 4 tale bearers who were all too lazy to go to the Lord's crucifixion to see the events for themselves by the time the story of the events of our Lord's crucifixion got to the last talebearer we would have a gross distortion of the truth the story would be told that Jesus was too lazy to stand up by Himself so they leaned Him up against a tree and there He was seen hanging around with a couple of undesirables drinking wine that had to be put into His mouth using a stick and sponge.

Employers complain that this generation wants a big pay check but they do not want to work to earn it.

Some apply themselves when the boss is looking over their shoulder but as soon as he's gone around the corner out of sight they go right back to goofing off again.

The Bible says in [Ephesians 6:6](#), **Not merely with eye service, as do pleasers of men; but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.**

That verse is repeated almost word for word again in [Colossians 3:22](#).

The secret to promotion in any job is no secret at all one must be first willing to work.

Many a boss has said the Opportunity for advancement is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks a lot like work.

It doesn't matter if someone wears an overall to work or wears a suit and a tie getting in rolling up your sleeves and doing something constructive is what work is all about work is doing something work is getting satisfaction from a job well done.

Another wonderful proverb is [Proverbs 12:24](#) The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

Some people are like a farmer I was reading about who said lightning struck my old shed and saved me the trouble of tearing it down and the rain washed the dust off my car and saved me the trouble of washing it.

When asked what he was doing now he replied Waiting for an earthquake to shake the potatoes out of the ground.

Believe me this is not how real life works.

If you are waiting for your ship to come in remember that people seldom drift to success.

Also the bee that makes the honey doesn't hang around the hive all day.

The road to success is marked with many tempting parking places.

Diligence in business is every Christian's duty; not so much that he may attain worldly wealth but that he may not be a burden to others a good Christians lays up treasure in heaven where moths and rust cannot get to it. ([Matthew 6:19-21](#))

Paul wrote in [1 Timothy 5:8](#), **But if anyone does not provide for his own needy relatives, and specially, members of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever.**

Now those should be very cutting words to anyone who heard them but would they cut a lazy man to his heart and jolt him into action no I don't think so. [Proverbs 24:30-34](#) says, **I went by the field of a lazy man and by the vineyard of a man without understanding, and behold, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face of it, and its stone wall was broken down, then I saw and considered it well, I looked upon it and received instruction, yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to lie down, then your poverty comes stalking, and your wants like a man armed with a shield.**

I looked upon it and received instruction what does that tell you well if the owner of the field and vineyard cared at all about their family they would be out in their fields working providing for their loved ones instead of them going without or having to provide for him so that he could lay down and sleep all day.

Over the many centuries it has traditionally been the man who provided for his family. Years ago when I was a child my mother stayed at home and took care of the home and us children and my father went to work to provide for his household

the man of the family was the responsible partner whose job it was to provide.

Things have changed since I was a child because both partners now contribute to running the household but neither are lazy by any means.

In [Genesis 3:19](#) we read **in the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground.**

That verse is talking about work hard work.

God provides for us by giving us healthy bodies rain to water the earth and sun to grow the crops. Even when He gave the Israelites manna in the wilderness they had to gather it up each day otherwise they didn't eat.

God does not do for us what we can do for ourselves.

Someone said Don't loaf away your time and depend on the Lord for your daily bread He isn't running a bakery you know.

And the Bible promises no loaves for the loafer.

Do you remember what Ezekiel wrote in [Ezekiel 16:49-50](#) well It was having too much that lead to the moral decay of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Ezekiel wrote **behold, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty and did abominable things before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.**

Surprisingly as crazy as it sounds having too much leads to dissatisfaction with what you already have.

Therefore when pleasure becomes our first priority the ironic result is boredom.

When we overindulge in fun everything becomes less and less fun our nephew loved dream world he would come home exhausted after spending a day there after the third day all the fun had gone and he was looking for something else exciting to do his attitude then being been there done that.

People want the full impact which they experienced at the beginning they want the first time over and over and over again.

Constant pleasures cause constant efforts by people to rekindle the initial thrill which they first experienced.

And when they can't get the full impact again they decide I'm bored.

The child today has boxes full of toys video games and a TV every piece of sports equipment known to man their own computer with high speed Internet access and their very own mobile phone.

And yet he or she doesn't have a thing to their bored.

I as a child had none of those things but I was never bored there was always something to do there was always something to keep my mind occupied there was always another tree to climb or a hill to slide down on a piece of cardboard.

Boredom is the plague of every parent who has a child home on school holidays.

The cries of Mum I'm bored! seem to echo right throughout the house.

Boredom is not just an irritation it is the symptom of a deeper spiritual problem.

People with time on their hands get into all sorts of mischief and it doesn't matter whether they are young or old.

Boredom often leads to drug and alcohol abuse as people seek out new thrills.

Boredom is often the motivating factor behind adultery which then leads to divorce.

It can even lead to suicide as people grow deeper and deeper in despair.

Truly boredom is a serious disease which quite often can and will land someone into deep trouble..

Having an overabundance leads to actions similar to that of a heroin addict.

As the addict's body becomes used to the drug which he or she is using the addict then takes a larger dose to achieve their buzz and to stay on a high longer.

Ever since we were children growing up and most of us here are around the age of 60 have you noticed in our society today that movies that once teased the audience into making up their own minds about what was going on under the sheets are now far more explicit this is to keep the audience entertained to make us want more.

Because simply making up our own mind no longer thrills.

That is because the thrill now comes from the shock of taboos being broken.

We are no longer content with imagining what is happening we want to see every detail fully exposed.

Proverbs 9:17 says Stolen waters are sweet, And bread eaten in secret is pleasant.

Water is water but the excitement of breaking a law adds extra flavour to the water.

People frequently step over the line of right and wrong to get their thrills.

However as their conscience becomes seared from the exposure it takes more shocking things to produce diminishing thrills.

As society continues to press for greater thrills the line of what is right and what is wrong has moved further and further out.

Laziness is a huge factor that causes boredom.

Without work there is no improvement in a person's life.

Without something to do a person fills his or her spare time getting involved in the affairs of other peoples' lives.

When will we ever learn that life is not defined by the number of toys or money that we accumulate?

Luke 12:15 warns us **watch out and keep yourselves from covetousness, for no ones life is in the abundance of the things that he possesses.**

In many cases having less is actually far better.

Way too often the things that we accumulate distract us from the really meaningful things that we already possess within and we allow the things which we accumulate to rule over or take over our thoughts and eventually take over our lives.

And by that i mean the more things we gather the more our focus is on this world and the less time we have to think or focus on God.

It is when we have little that we really appreciate what we have and remember to show our appreciation to the Giver of all things our Great and awesome God.

The world has gradually over the centuries got worse what do you think would happen If Lord Jesus were to sneak back to Earth for a look see and say to Himself things are really in a bad way maybe I will redo My ministry here on earth all over again in 2016.

Well if He did then He would probably once again be a wanted man for example.

Wanted by the QLD liquor and gaming dept for turning water into wine without a license.

The QLD Environmental Protection agency for killing fig trees.

The QLD medical board for practicing medicine without a license.

The Dept of Health for opening graves for raising the dead and for feeding multitudes in the wilderness without using proper refrigeration or cooking utensils.

QLD dept of education and training for teaching without a certificate.

QLD fisheries for walking on water without a life jacket.

QLD Dept of Aviation and aerospace for flying without an airplane.

The RSPCA for driving hogs into the sea.

The Australian health practitioner regulation agency for giving advice on how to live a guilt free life.

The Anti discrimination commission for not choosing a woman apostle.

QLD Police and the QLD child safety commission for saying that whoever harms children it is better that they had never been born.

The QLD Anti discriminating commission of Qld for condemning the traditions of men.

And what about the Qld planning building and zoning depts for building mansions without a permit.

Yes what a crazy-crazy world we live in.

Our approach to life usually determines our attitude toward life.

A miser remains a miser even if he has a guest over. Jesus warns us that sins originate from within our hearts ([Mark 7:21-22](#)).

Therefore the answer to laziness is deciding not to be lazy.

**The answer to boredom is deciding not to be bored!
If you allow yourself to feel bored then you will be bored.**

And those who decide they won't be bored will not be bored.

Do you remember as a child winging and whining about having to clean your room.

Had you got in and did it when you were told to it would be over and done with and you could be outside playing better still don't mess it up so that it needs cleaning.

Rather than wasting the precious time that we have in our short life complaining that we have nothing to do we need to totally involve and immerse ourselves in life.

Boredom and laziness cannot take root in the life of a person who is actively improving themselves.

[Ecclesiastes 9:10](#) **Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work nor plan nor knowledge nor wisdom in the grave where you go.**

The answer is so simple get the right attitude to life put a smile on your face and Don't be a lazy bones **Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.**

And put your heart and backs into it as well.

Remember the gardeners la-pel badge Business is great.

Your la-pel badge should say Life is great and God is fantastic great Who gave life to me.

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