

**Practical Wisdom From Father to Son**  
**Proverbs 6:1-19**  
**Berean Baptist Church**  
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**Proverbs 6:1-5 Be Proactive in Getting Out of Debt**

**Vs 1** This is a dangerous debt for two reasons:

"surety for thy friend" The person is something like a cosigner on a loan. Everything they have, and even they themselves can be sold off their friend does not pay the debt.

"..with a stranger" The debt is owed to a "stranger," this is a foreigner who does not worship God or share Israel's values. God established certain rules for debt and repayment between the people of God (Deuteronomy chapter 15), but a foreigner is not bound to these rules; the potential liability is unlimited!

**Vs 2-5** So the wise thing to do is acknowledge your mistake, humble yourself, and work hard to get out of the situation.

The Bible does not outright condemn the practice of indebtedness (Philemon 18), but it does advise extreme caution and provide safeguards to protect all parties. The point of this passage is that we should see bad debt as extremely dangerous.

*Seek to rid yourself of bad debt with great humility and speed!*

**Proverbs 6:6-11 Be Proactive in Work**

**Vs 6** Here we meet another character in Proverbs, an example of who not to be, the Sluggard; AKA "lazy" or "slothful." He appears in 14 verses in Proverbs translated as "slothful" or "sluggard" in the KJV. Here are some highlights:

"Pr 10:26 ¶ As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him."

*He is an irritation to those who depend on him.*

"Pr 13:4 ¶ The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat. Pr 20:4 ¶ The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing." *He will end up poor.*

Pr 15:19 ¶ The way of the slothful man is as a hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain.

*He seeks the easiest way but it entraps him and turns out to be harder than the right way.*

Pr 18:9 ¶ He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.

*He goes hand-in-hand with waste and destruction; being lazy is actively harmful.*

Pr 26:13 ¶ The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.

14 ¶ As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed.

15 ¶ The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.

16 ¶ The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

*He makes silly excuses, he sleeps too much, he is very lazy, and he thinks highly of his own wisdom.*

**Vs 7-8** The lesson to the lazy is this: *be proactive in your work even when no one is looking over your shoulder.*

**Vs 9-11** "one that travelleth" is literally "like a person who walks." The point is that you cannot hide from poverty in your home; it will come to you. While you are over-sleeping, poverty comes to you and "want" or "lack" breaks into your house like a home invader. So, here is a graphic lesson for the lazy:

*You are not safe in bed! If you are lazy, poverty will come to you and break into your house. So, get to work.*

*Be proactive; get after it early!*

### **Proverbs 6:12-15 The Real Character of the Lazy**

**Vs 12** "naughty person." "Naughty" now means something like "mildly bad", but it used to mean "worthless" or "good for nothing." That is the literal meaning of the Hebrew term; see Jer 24:1-2. So these verses connect laziness in the previous verses to wickedness and froward (perverted) speech.

**Vs 13** These verses seem to describe subtle communications as part of a perverted conspiracy. The worthless person may be lazy, but they can also be crafty.

**Vs 14** Sadly he uses whatever energy he has for three things: perversion, harm, and discord.

**Vs 15** Notice the connect between Vs 11 and Vs 15. Their punishment actively hunts them down.

*Do not be lazy and worthless, use your God-given energy for good!*

### **Proverbs 6:16-19 What God Hates**

**Vs 16** Six...seven. This figure of speech that indicates a complete or useful list; see Amos 2:1-8. These "wisdom lists" were made to be easily memorized, even by children!

**Vs 17-18** "look" can be translated "eyes." The first five are body parts that proceed from head to tow and give a concrete picture of what God hates in a person.

**Vs 19** brings all the wicked parts together and shows the work of a fully perverted person.

The false witness and sower of discord – "speaketh" is not the normal word for "speak" or "say", rather it is a word that means "breath." The false witness lies as easily a one exhales.

*Evil is no joke! Pray that you would have God's view of your sin.*