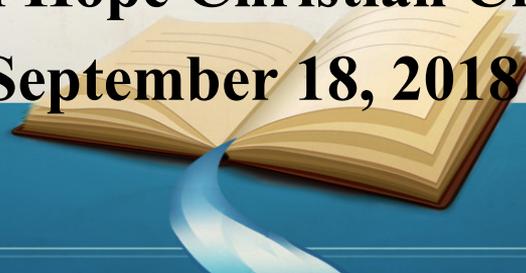


**I Am A Champion:  
Overcoming the Attitudes,  
Emotions, Passions And Habits That  
Threaten To Defeat You!**

**Rev. Jabari N. Butler  
Ray of Hope Christian Church**

**September 18, 2018**



# Slothfulness (Laziness)



# Slothfulness (Laziness)

- Unwilling to work or use energy
- Synonyms: idle, indolent, slothful, workshy, shiftless, inactive, underactive

*Source: Google dictionary*





Photographer: Getty Images

Business

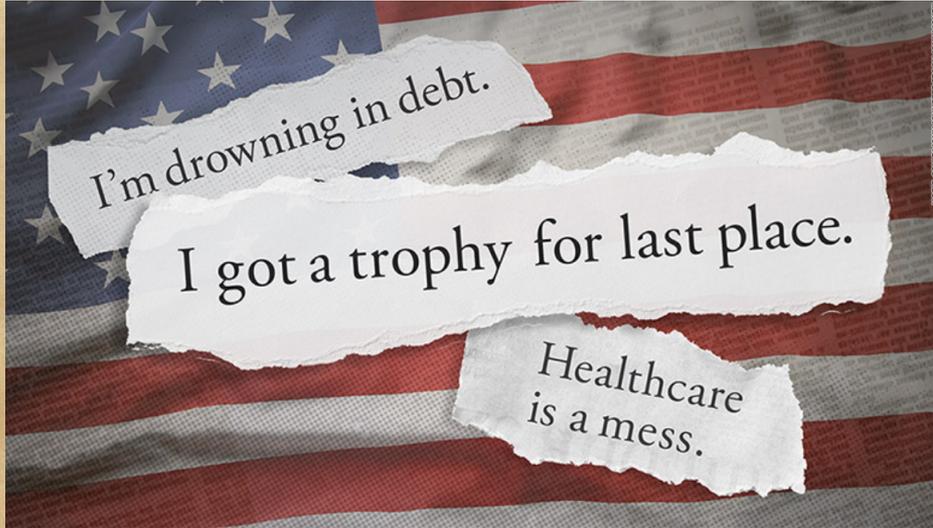
## Americans Blow \$27.8 Billion a Year by Being Lazy

Around the globe, the U.S. accounts for two-fifths of the \$67 billion in losses tied to physical inactivity.

Americans have become lazy, argues economist Tyler Cowen. They [don't start businesses](#) as much as they once did. They don't move as often as they used to. And they live in neighborhoods that are about as segregated as they were in the 1960s.



# Slothfulness (Laziness)



**Krakauer underscores another underappreciated threat we all face: Humans are lazy. Technology makes life easier, allows us to experience and accomplish more. But every time we outsource effort or decision making to other entities, human or otherwise, we relinquish some control.**



# Journey to Thessalonica

- AD 51 Paul, Silas and Timothy brought the message of the Messiah to Thessalonica
- Paul urges them not to give up
- Thessalonians became faithful
- Short time later, false reports about the “Day of our Lord” (God’s victory)



# 2 Thessalonians 3:6

“In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching.”



# Slothfulness

- Robs us of purpose and motivation
- Lazy people usually give up
- Thessalonians wanted to give up instead of going to God in prayer
- They became angry, upset and perplexed
- Paul encouraged them – no work, no eat and to not grow weary in well doing



# Slothfulness

- Thessalonians stopped believing and then they stopped working
- God wants our best – not perfection
- If we want to have something in life, we must be willing to work for it



# The Danger of Slothfulness



# The Danger of Slothfulness

## 5 Most Common Causes of Workplace Accidents

- Shortcuts
- Overconfidence
- Poor, Lack of Housekeeping
- Neglecting safety procedures
- Lack of preparation

- Source: <http://www.safetypartnersltd.com/7-most-common-causes-of-workplace-accidents/#.W6C3behKg2w>



# 4 Reasons Smartphones Make Us Lazy

1. GPS Degrades Memory
2. They do things for us
3. Too Much Search Engine-ing
4. Impacts Children

Real Simple broke the news that children (between 8 and 10 years old) spent more than seven hours on social media. (When they weren't in school, that is.)

Source: <https://www.lifehack.org/484043/7-reasons-smartphones-make-you-lazy>



# Implications of Slothfulness

- Lifestyle is hard to break
- Lazy person may want to achieve greatness, but no energy to do it
- Satan will try to stop you from living your best life
- This is not about people who have to resort to food stamps or government aid
- It is about people who are talented and know God and God's truth – but refuse
- Getting help is ok – but don't let it be a lifestyle



# Slothfulness: Spiritual landmine

- “I don’t feel like helping”
- “That’s not my job”
- “I don’t want to go the extra mile”
- Slothful thinking catches up with us



# Slothfulness: Impact on giving

- Financial laziness, we miss out on God's blessings
- We miss the fact that God gave it to us first
- Creates atmosphere of ingratitude
- Promotes greed
- Plenty of money – but end up lonely



# Slothfulness: Emotional impact

- Some people get by with appearing weak
- They do enough to get by and then just ask for help
- Proverbs 20:4 – “The sluggard does not plow after the autumn. So he begs during the harvest and has nothing.”



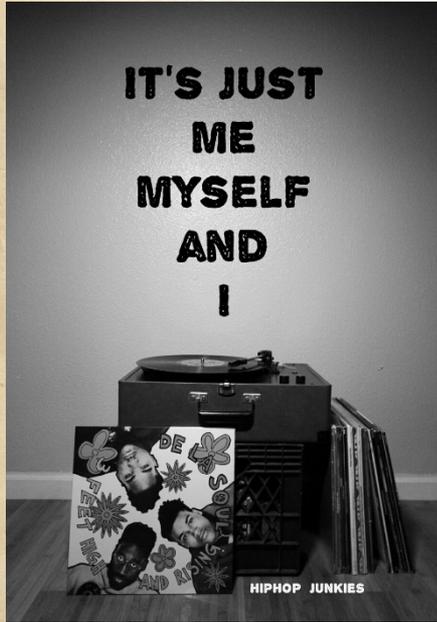
# Characteristics of laziness

- Lack of goals/priorities
- Selfishness
- Lazy parenting
- Lack of faith in God's call and identity
- Sense of pride (Proverbs 26:12)
  - Pride steals our joy
  - Pride has no interest in pleasing God

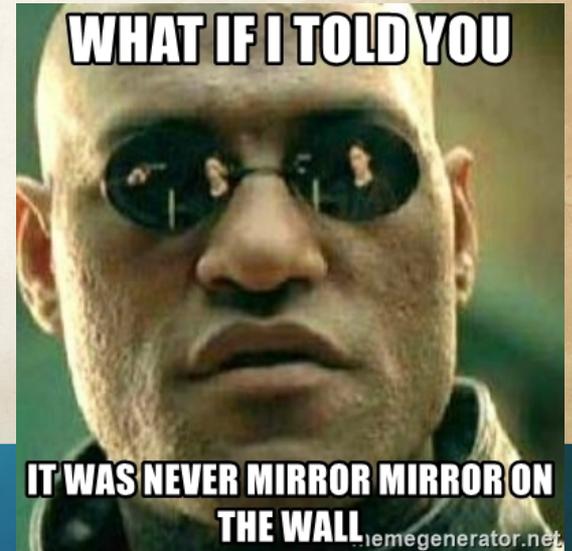


# Characteristics of laziness

Insensitivity to the Lord  
and to others



Still a good group. 😊



# Characteristics of laziness

- Damaged testimony for God
  - We are to be energetic
  - Laziness doesn't fit with our identity in Christ
  - Jesus rested, but rest was never the end game



# Characteristics of laziness

- Weakened relationship with God
  - Being lazy in one area – impacts other areas
  - Our worship suffers
  - We don't think about pleasing the Lord



# Characteristics of laziness

- Ignorance of God's truth
  - They avoid reading and studying
  - Dangerous and leads to compromise
  - Spiritual ignorance
  - We may think that taking time off from prayer is ok
  - Deadly to think that we can take vacation from God



# Characteristics of laziness

- Feelings of depression, anxiety and fear
  - We're not motivated to study more
  - Not motivated to read more scripture
  - The enemy KNOWS that laziness grows so does our lack of devotion to God



**Discussion (5 mins)**



# What does God want us to do?

## Ephesians 6:10

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”



# What does God want us to do?

## 1 Peter 5:8-9

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”



# What does God want us to do?

- God expects us to live disciplined lives
- To overcome laziness, we must:
  - *Commit to God*
  - *Commit to the task at hand*



# Traits of successful people

- Ability
- Commitment
- Discipline
- Desire
- Stick-to-it (perseverance)



# Overcoming Slothfulness

- God created you for a purpose
- You are not powerless (Jesus Christ)
- God has a plan for your life – Jeremiah 29:11
- Lazy people wait, but true joy comes when we decide to walk with God
- God forgives sin
- God is our only source for TRUE victory –  
Ps. 18



Successful people:

**DON'T QUIT!**



Successful people:

~~DON'T QUIT!~~



# Demonstration



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