Diligence

Man’s Precious Possession
What Is Diligence?

- English
  - persevering and careful in work; hardworking, industrious
  - done with careful, steady effort; painstaking

- Hebrew
  - incisive, sharp, determined, eager
  - quick, skillful

- Greek
  - use speed, make effort, endeavor, be prompt or earnest
  - search out, investigate, crave
Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

- Is Contrasted with
  - The Lazy Man (Prov. 10:4, 12:24, 12:27, 13:4)
Diligence, Not Laziness

A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. - Proverbs 10:4 ESV

The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor. - Proverbs 12:24 ESV

The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, But diligence is man's precious possession. - Proverbs 12:27 NKJV

The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied. - Proverbs 13:4 ESV
Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

- Is Contrasted with
  - The Lazy Man (Prov. 10:4, 12:24, 12:27, 13:4)
  - The Hasty Man (Prov. 21:5)
Diligence, Not Hastiness

The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty. - Proverbs 21:5 ESV
Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

- Is Contrasted with
  - The Lazy Man (Prov. 10:4, 12:24, 12:27, 13:4)
  - The Hasty Man (Prov. 21:5)

- Results in
  - Riches
  - Influence
  - Plenty
  - Recognition
Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

Why diligence works

- It applies all the force of a person to one task (Eccl. 9:10)
Ecclesiastes 9:10 ESV

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.
Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

Why diligence works

- It applies all the force of a person to one task (Eccl. 9:10)
- It does not permit distractions or excuses to suspend or postpone effort (Eccl. 11:4)
Ecclesiastes 11:4 ESV

He who observes the wind will not sow,
and he who regards the clouds will not reap.
Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

Why diligence works

- It applies all the force of a person to one task (Eccl. 9:10)
- It does not permit distractions or excuses to suspend or postpone effort (Eccl. 11:4)
- It spends more than enough effort to account for the unknown (Eccl. 11:6)
Ecclesiastes 11:6 ESV

In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.
Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

The Limits of Diligence

- Can be used for good or evil (Prov. 7:15)
Proverbs 7:15 NKJV

So I came out to meet you, Diligently to seek your face, And I have found you.
Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

The Limits of Diligence

☐ Can be used for good or evil (Prov. 7:15)

☐ Cannot extract us from the consequences of our actions (Prov. 1:28; Heb. 12:17)
Diligent Effort, But Too Late

Proverbs 1:28 ESV - Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me.

Hebrews 12:17 NKJV - For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.
Diligence in the Wisdom Literature

The Limits of Diligence

☐ Can be used for good or evil (Prov. 7:15)

☐ Cannot extract us from the consequences of our actions (Prov. 1:28; Heb. 12:17)

☐ Is not an end in itself (Psalm 127:2)
Psalms 127:2 NKJV

It is vain for you to rise up early, To sit up late, To eat the bread of sorrows; For so He gives His beloved sleep.
Diligence in the New Testament

We are to apply diligence to

- Repentance (2 Cor. 7:11)
2 Corinthians 7:11 NKJV

For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.
Diligence in the New Testament

We are to apply diligence to:

- Repentance (2 Cor. 7:11)
- Caring for those in need (2 Cor. 8:7-8)
2 Corinthians 8:7-8 NKJV

7 But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also. 8 I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others.
Diligence in the New Testament

We are to apply diligence to
- Repentance (2 Cor. 7:11)
- Caring for those in need (2 Cor. 8:7-8)
- Laboring for the name of God and ministering to the saints (Heb. 6:10-12)
For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
Diligence in the New Testament

We are to apply diligence to

- Repentance (2 Cor. 7:11)
- Caring for those in need (2 Cor. 8:7-8)
- Laboring for the name of God and ministering to the saints (Heb. 6:10-12)
- Cultivating Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5,10)
But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ... 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;
Diligence in the New Testament

We are to apply diligence to

- Repentance (2 Cor. 7:11)
- Caring for those in need (2 Cor. 8:7-8)
- Laboring for the name of God and ministering to the saints (Heb. 6:10-12)
- Cultivating Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5,10)
- Studying the Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15)
2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
Diligence in the New Testament

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- Caring for those in need (2 Cor. 8:7-8)
- Laboring for the name of God and ministering to the saints (Heb. 6:10-12)
- Cultivating Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5,10)
- Studying the Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15)
- Striving for Christian unity (Eph. 4:3)
Ephesians 4:3 NASB

being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
Diligence in the New Testament

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- Repentance (2 Cor. 7:11)
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- Laboring for the name of God and ministering to the saints (Heb. 6:10-12)
- Cultivating Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5,10)
- Studying the Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15)
- Striving for Christian unity (Eph. 4:3)
- Getting to heaven (Heb. 4:11)
Hebrews 4:11 NKJV

Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.
Diligence in the New Testament

We are to apply diligence to:

- Repentance (2 Cor. 7:11)
- Caring for those in need (2 Cor. 8:7-8)
- Laboring for the name of God and ministering to the saints (Heb. 6:10-12)
- Cultivating Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5,10)
- Studying the Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15)
- Striving for Christian unity (Eph. 4:3)
- Getting to heaven (Heb. 4:11)
- Preparing for Jesus’ return (2 Peter 3:14)
Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;
The Diligent Search

We are to search diligently for

- For good (Prov. 11:27)
Proverbs 11:27 NASB

He who diligently seeks good seeks favor, But he who seeks evil, evil will come to him.
The Diligent Search

We are to search diligently for

☐ For good (Prov. 11:27)
☐ For wisdom (Prov. 8:17)
Proverbs 8:17 NKJV

I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.
The Diligent Search

We are to search diligently for

- For good (Prov. 11:27)
- For wisdom (Prov. 8:17)
- For salvation (1 Pet. 1:10)
1 Peter 1:10 NKJV

Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you,
The Diligent Search

We are to search diligently for

☐ For good (Prov. 11:27)
☐ For wisdom (Prov. 8:17)
☐ For salvation (1 Pet. 1:10)
☐ For God (Heb. 11:6)
Hebrews 11:6 NKJV

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
The Diligent Search

We are to search diligently for

☐ For good (Prov. 11:27)
☐ For wisdom (Prov. 8:17)
☐ For salvation (1 Pet. 1:10)
☐ For God (Heb. 11:6)