

The Word On Productivity In Business

1. Proverbs 21:5

AMPC

The thoughts of the [steadily] diligent tend only to plenteousness, but everyone who is impatient *and* hasty hastens only to want.

MSG

Careful planning puts you ahead in the long run;
hurry and scurry puts you further behind.

NKJV

The plans of the diligent *lead* surely to plenty,
But *those of* everyone *who is* hasty, surely to poverty.

2. Proverbs 14:23

AMPC

In all labor there is profit, but idle talk leads only to poverty.

MSG

Hard work always pays off; mere talk puts no bread on the table.

NKJV

In all labor there is profit,
But idle chatter *leads* only to poverty.

3. Ecclesiastes 9:10

AMPC

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol (the place of the dead), where you are going.

MSG

Whatever turns up, grab it and do it. And heartily!
This is your last and only chance at it,

NKJV

Whatever your hand finds to do, do *it* with your might; for *there is* no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

4. Proverbs 24:27

AMPC

[Put first things first.] Prepare your work outside and get it ready for yourself in the field; and afterward build your house *and* establish a home.

MSG

First plant your fields; *then* build your barn.

NKJV

Prepare your outside work,
Make it fit for yourself in the field;
And afterward build your house.

5. Proverbs 12:24

AMPC

The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slothful will be put to forced labor.

MSG

The diligent find freedom in their work;
the lazy are oppressed by work.

NKJV

The hand of the diligent will rule,
But the lazy *man* will be put to forced labor.

6. Proverbs 15:22

AMPC

Where there is no counsel, purposes are frustrated, but with many counselors they are accomplished.

MSG

Refuse good advice and watch your plans fail;
take good counsel and watch them succeed.

NKJV

Without counsel, plans go awry,
But in the multitude of counselors they are established.

7. Romans 12:11

KJV

Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord

AMPC

Never lag in zeal *and* in earnest endeavor; be aglow *and* burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord.

MSG

Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame.

NKJV

Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

8. 1 Thessalonians 4:11–12

AMPC

To make it your ambition *and* definitely endeavor to live quietly *and* peacefully, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we charged you, So that you may bear yourselves becomingly *and* be correct *and* honorable *and* command the respect of the outside world, being dependent on nobody [self-supporting] *and* having need of nothing.

MSG

Stay calm; mind your own business; do your own job. You've heard all this from us before, but a reminder never hurts. We want you living in a way that will command the respect of outsiders, not lying around sponging off your friends.

NKJV

That you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and *that* you may lack nothing.

9. Luke 16:10

AMPC

He who is faithful in a very little [thing] is faithful also in much, and he who is dishonest *and* unjust in a very little [thing] is dishonest *and* unjust also in much.

MSG

Jesus went on to make these comments:

If you're honest in small things,
 you'll be honest in big things;
If you're a crook in small things,
 you'll be a crook in big things.
If you're not honest in small jobs,
 who will put you in charge of the store?

NKJV

He who *is* faithful in *what is* least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in *what is* least is unjust also in much.

10. Psalm 1:1–3

AMPC

Blessed (happy, fortunate, prosperous, and enviable) is the man who walks *and* lives not in the counsel of the ungodly [following their advice, their plans and purposes], nor stands [submissive and inactive] in the path where sinners walk, nor sits down [to relax and rest] where the scornful [and the mockers] gather.

But his delight *and* desire are in the law of the Lord, and on His law (the precepts, the instructions, the teachings of God) he habitually meditates (ponders and studies) by day and by night.

And he shall be like a tree firmly planted [and tended] by the streams of water, ready to bring forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not fade *or* wither; and everything he does shall prosper [and come to maturity].

MSG

How well God must like you—

you don't walk in the ruts of those blind-as-bats,
you don't stand with the good-for-nothings,
you don't take your seat among the know-it-alls.

Instead you thrill to God's Word,

you chew on Scripture day and night.

You're a tree replanted in Eden,

bearing fresh fruit every month,

Never dropping a leaf,

always in blossom.

NKJV

Blessed *is* the man

Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,

Nor stands in the path of sinners,

Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord,

And in His law he meditates day and night.

He shall be like a tree

Planted by the rivers of water,

That brings forth its fruit in its season,

Whose leaf also shall not wither;

And whatever he does shall prosper.

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