

## Principles of Economic Liberty ~ Session 4: Individual Choice

While the Bible affirms and respects human sovereignty, it is not neutral about specific choices made.

Scripture consistently encourages people to work diligently and to accept responsibility.

Read these passages. In the white space below, write several comments people might make about individuals who take these admonitions to heart and practice them.

### 1. Proverbs 10:4-5

<sup>4</sup> He who has a slack hand becomes poor,  
But the hand of the diligent makes rich.

<sup>5</sup> He who gathers in summer is a wise son;  
He who sleeps in harvest is a son who  
causes shame.

### 2. Proverbs 12:14

<sup>14</sup> A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit  
of his mouth,  
And the recompense of a man's hands will be  
rendered to him.

### 3. Proverbs 13:4

<sup>4</sup> The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing;  
But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

### 4. Proverbs 14:23

<sup>23</sup> In all labor there is profit,  
But idle chatter leads only to poverty.

### 5. Proverbs 16:26

<sup>26</sup> The person who labors, labors for himself,  
For his hungry mouth drives him on.

### 6. Proverbs 28:19

<sup>19</sup> He who tills his land will have plenty of bread,  
But he who follows frivolity will have poverty enough!

### 7. Ecclesiastes 3:9-13

<sup>9</sup> What profit has the worker from that in which he labors? <sup>10</sup> I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. <sup>11</sup> He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end. <sup>12</sup> I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, <sup>13</sup> and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God.

### 8. 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

<sup>6</sup> But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us. <sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; <sup>8</sup> nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, <sup>9</sup> not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. <sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. <sup>11</sup> For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. <sup>12</sup> Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.