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**Cures for Slackers and Mockers**

Pastor Ken Sistrunk

**Proverbs 21:23-31** <sup>23</sup>He who guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from distress. <sup>24</sup>Mocker is the name of the proud and arrogant man— of him who acts with excessive pride. <sup>25</sup>The craving of the slacker kills him because his hands refuse to work. <sup>26</sup>All day long he covets more, but the righteous give without restraint. <sup>27</sup>The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable— how much more so when brought with ill intent! <sup>28</sup>A lying witness will perish, but the man who listens to truth will speak forever. <sup>29</sup>A wicked man hardens his face, but the upright man makes his way sure. <sup>30</sup>There is no wisdom, no understanding, no counsel that can prevail against the LORD. <sup>31</sup>A horse is prepared for the day of battle, but victory is of the LORD. (BSB)

- I. What can we learn from this passage?
  - A. We must use our will to put up restraint from saying **unwise things**. V. 23, 28
  - B. We have an excellent definition of who a **“mockers”** is in this passage. V. 24
  - C. A slacker will be a victim to his **cravings** because he will not have the money to pay for them. V. 25
  - D. The cure for the slacker is to develop a good **work ethic** and to become **generous**. V. 26 It is misguided for a righteous person to enable a slacker.
  - E. God sees the **heart** of the giver. We should give to God without any expectation of return. V. 27
  - F. We cannot thwart God’s **judgment** on us. We cannot use our emotions, our intellect, or our technology. V. 29, 30, 31
- II. What can we learn from this?
  - A. The best way to **restrain** our tongue is to limit the amount of words that we say.
  - B. The best cure for being a mocker is **humility** and **self-sacrifice**. The key is expecting nothing in return.
  - C. The best cure for the slacker is to have those whom he/she depends on set up **strict guidelines** for receiving help. These guidelines should eventually lead to the slacker’s independence. It is not loving to enable a slacker.
  - D. We need to discover ways to give to God that gets us no personal **benefit**. Tithing is one way to do this.
  - E. We need to allow bad things that happen to us to shape our **character**. God can bring good in all situations or we can fight Him and become bitter.