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Keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ

HAPPY SABBATH!



CONSIDER THE ANT



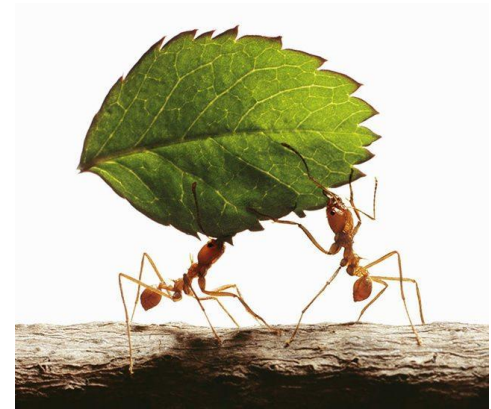
BE DILIGENT



CONSIDER THE ANT



CONSIDER THE ANT



Proverbs1: 1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; 2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; 4 To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. 5 A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: 6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings. 7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

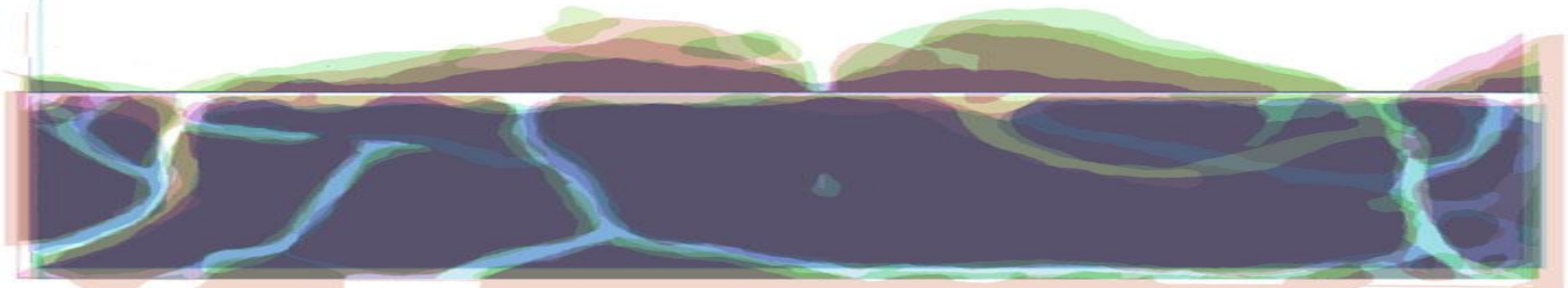
CONSIDER THE ANT



- Proverbs 6:6 **Go to the ant**, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: (KJV)



- Proverbs 6:7-8 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest.



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- **Proverbs 6:9-11** How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.



THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER



In a field one summer's day a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart's content. An Ant passed by, bearing along with great toil an ear of corn he was taking to the nest. **"Why not come and chat with me,"** said the Grasshopper, **"instead of toiling and moiling in that way?"** **"I am helping to lay up food for the winter,"** said the Ant, **"and recommend you to do the same."** **"Why bother about winter?"** said the Grasshopper; **"we have got plenty of food at present."** But the Ant went on its way and continued its toil. When the winter came the Grasshopper had no food and found itself dying of hunger, while it saw the ants distributing every day corn and grain from the stores they had collected in the summer. Then the Grasshopper knew:

It is best to prepare for the days of necessity.





CONSIDER THE ANT

- A slothful person is ...
- ... apathetic, never in a hurry to get anything done.
- ... doesn't believe it applies to them.
- **Proverbs 26:16** The sluggard *is* wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.



CONSIDER THE ANT

- A slothful person does not value the advance of seasons.
- Proverbs 20:4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; *therefore* shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.
- Proverbs 19:24 A slothful *man* hideth his hand in *his* bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.
- Proverbs 10:5 He that gathereth in summer *is* a wise son: *but* he that sleepeth in harvest *is* a son that causeth shame.
- Proverbs 30:25 The ants *are* a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;



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- Proverbs 24:30-34 I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, *and nettles* had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, *and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.* Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come *as one that travelleth*; and thy want as an armed man.

CONSIDER THE ANT

- A slothful man is a dreamer.
- **Proverbs 21:25-26** The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour. He coveteth greedily all the day long: but the righteous giveth and spareth not.
- **Proverbs 26:14** As the door turneth upon his hinges, so *doth* the slothful upon his bed.

CONSIDER THE ANT

- A slothful man will not finish the task.
- Proverbs 12:27 The slothful *man* roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man *is* precious.
- A slothful man brings damage to their family, their employer, etc.
- Proverbs 18:9 He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.
- Proverbs 10:26 As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so *is* the sluggard to them that send him.

CONSIDER THE ANT

- People who are slothful have many fears and/or **excuses** and will have difficulty.
- **Proverbs 22:13** The slothful *man* saith, *There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.*
- **Proverbs 26:13** The slothful *man* saith, *There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.*
- **Proverbs 15:19** The way of the slothful *man is as an hedge of thorns:* but the way of the righteous *is made plain.*

CONSIDER THE ANT

- **Matthew 25:26** His lord answered and said unto him, *Thou wicked and slothful servant*, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:
- **Romans 12:10-13** *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; **Not slothful** in business; **fervent** in spirit; **serving** the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; **continuing** instant in prayer; **Distributing** to the necessity of saints; **given** to hospitality.*
- **Hebrews 6:10-12** For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your **work and labour** of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, **in that ye have ministered to the saints**, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the **same diligence** to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye **be not slothful**, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

CONSIDER THE ANT



- How do we become diligent?
- A. Treasure God's wisdom and be faithful to teach your children.
- **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them **diligently** unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

CONSIDER THE ANT



- Be diligent to remember Gods truths.
- **Deuteronomy 4:8-9** And what nation *is there* so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul **diligently**, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

CONSIDER THE ANT



- Be diligent to keep all of Gods commandments.
- **Deuteronomy 6:17-18** Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee. And thou shalt do *that which is* right and good in the sight of the LORD: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers,

CONSIDER THE ANT



- Be diligent to guard your affections.
- **Deuteronomy 4:23-24** Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, *or* the likeness of any *thing*, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee. For the LORD thy God *is* a consuming fire, *even* a jealous God.

CONSIDER THE ANT



- Be diligent to add to your faith...
- **2 Peter 1:5-8** And beside this, **giving all diligence**, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CONSIDER THE ANT



- Be diligent to remove roots of bitterness—seek peace and holiness.
- **Hebrews 12:14-15** Follow **peace** with all *men*, and **holiness**, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking **diligently** lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any **root of bitterness** springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be **defiled**;

CONSIDER THE ANT



- Be diligent to avoid tempters, swindlers and frauds.
- **Proverbs 23:1-3** When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what *is* before thee: And put a knife to thy throat, if thou *be* a man given to appetite. Be not desirous of his dainties: for they *are* deceitful meat.

CONSIDER THE ANT



- Rewards of Diligence:
- Makes you “rich”.
- Proverbs 10:4 He becometh poor that dealeth *with* a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.
- Be given authority.
- Proverbs 12:24 The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

CONSIDER THE ANT



- Be fulfilled.
- **Proverbs 13:4** The soul of the sluggard desireth, and *hath* nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat. .
- Be creative and resourceful.
- **Proverbs 21:5** The thoughts of the diligent *tend* only to plenteousness; but of every one *that is* hasty only to want.

CONSIDER THE ANT



- Receive favor.
- **Proverbs 11:27** He that **diligently seeketh good** procureth favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him.
- Given Honor.
- **Proverbs 22:29** Seest thou a man **diligent in his business?** he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean *men*.

CONSIDER THE ANT

2 Thessalonians 3:6-10 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother **that walketh disorderly**, and not after the tradition which he received of us. For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: **for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you**; Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: Not because we have not power, **but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us**. For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, **that if any would not work, neither should he eat**.

CONSIDER THE ANT

2 Thessalonians 3:11-15 For we hear that there are some which walk among you **disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.** Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that **with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.** But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and **have no company with him,** that he may be ashamed. Yet count *him* not as an enemy, but **admonish *him* as a brother.**

CONSIDER THE ANT

- **1 Timothy 5:8** But if any **provide not for his own**, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is **worse than an infidel**.
- **Colossians 3:23-25** And **whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord**, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: **for ye serve the Lord Christ**. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.



ANT PHILOSOPHY



- **The Ants Work Is A Partnership**
- **They Work In Love** - No infighting, Brethren should love - **Heb. 13:1; 1 John 4:7; John 13:35.**
- **They Are Helpful** - Help carry burdens; injured neighbors; rescue those buried or those who fall into a pit. (**Gal. 6:2; Rom.15:1**)
- **They Operate In Harmony** - 1 weak, many strong. -each has a job, but none are more important. (We are all members of one body - **1 Cor. 12:12-27.Phil. 1:27; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph 4:3**)





ANT PHILOSOPHY



- **The Ants Work as a Productive Team**
- **They Work Toward A Common Goal** - Provide for the colony and the queen. **1 Cor. 10:31; 1 Thes. 4:1; Heb. 13:16**
- **Ants Have An All Volunteer Service** - No guide, yet each ant works. **James 2:17-18; 4:17.**
- **Ants Labor According To Their Own Ability** (Storekeepers, engineers, nurses, farmers, laborers --He will use you according to your ability, as you grow, your responsibility will grow, **2 Pet. 3:18**. God has especially gifted and equipped you for some type of work in the body of Christ, **1 Cor. 12:12-27**) All God asks is that we use our abilities. (Talents - **Mt. 25**) (**Ecc. 9:10, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."**)



ANT PHILOSOPHY



➤ The Ant's Work is Persistent

➤ **Ants Work Continually** - All Day! No pay, promotion, thanks, pats on back, reward yet they work! Ants never get mad and quit and they never go on strike! They just work! **Philippians 3:13-14** Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this one thing I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

➤ **Impossible to stop when food is found** –(Note: What a lesson! We who have tasted and found that the Lord is good need to go back into the colony of the world and tell the others about Him.)

➤ **Keep going in times of danger** - (Ill. average Christian says - "***We can't***"; that attitude cost Israel 40 years in the wilderness. What could it cost you? We must move from "***I can't***" to "***I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me!***", Phil. 4:13)



ANT PHILOSOPHY



- **The Ant's Make Provisions For This Life**
- **Ants collect food consistently-** Do you prepare for food shortages/lack of work? Are you storing up your daily bread in the cupboard of your heart?
- **Ants maintain their shelter/home-** Do you maintain your premises or allow things to fall to disrepair? Are you maintaining the Lord as your shelter? **Psalms 61:3** For thou hast been a shelter for me, *and* a strong tower from the enemy.
- **Their colonies are built up with all the things needed to provide for each one and for all. (storage rooms, barracks, hatcheries, etc. Forager, builders, soldiers, egglayers/queens, nursemaids, etc.)** – Do you plan for the seasons in your life today? Are you covering the bases wisely? Education, good credit, savings, insurance, retirement, legacy. Spiritually are you reading the word, constant in prayer, abiding in Christ, not quenching the spirit, helping the Body, having good works?



➤ The Ant's Make Provisions For The Future

- **Ants store all they can while they can.** (Grasshoppers – They make no preparations and when winter comes, they all die!) Ants, on the other hand, believe in winter and by instinct they prepare for it.
- Men believe in resurrection/life after death, but do nothing about it. They are heading toward the Second Death. People need to be ready and God has made The Way! The Way is Jesus. - **John 3:16-19** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: **but he that believeth not is condemned already**, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**



➤ The Ant's Make Provisions For The Future

- **Romans 14:12** So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.
- **1 Peter 4:18** And if the righteous **scarcely** be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?
- **John 3:36** He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; **but the wrath of God abideth on him.**



➤ **The Ant's Make Provisions For The Future**

- **Ezek 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked ; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?**
- **2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**
- **Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:**



➤ The Ant's Make Provisions For The Future

- **James 5:1-5** Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon *you*. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. **Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.** Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. **Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.**



➤ The Ant's Make Provisions For The Future

- **James 5:6-9** Ye have condemned *and* killed the just; *and* **he doth not resist you**. Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. **Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.**



➤ The Ant's Make Provisions For The Future

- **John 5:25-29** Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, **And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.**



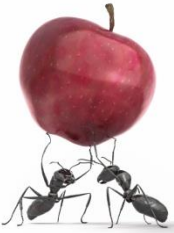
➤ **The Ant's Make Provisions For The Future**

- **Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

ANT PHILOSOPHY



- There are two types of people in the world
- **SLOTHFUL AND DILIGENT/GRASSHOPPERS AND ANTS**
- The slothful/grasshopper is living a life which has no regard for the future.
- **1 Cor 15:32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.**
- Then you have the diligent ants that plan for what they know is coming
- **Gen 8:22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.**
- **Matthew 16:2-3** He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, *It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?*



ANT PHILOSOPHY



ANTS NEVER QUIT

- If they're headed somewhere and you try to stop them, they'll look for another way.
- They'll climb over, they'll climb under, they'll climb around.
- They keep looking for another way.

LESSON:

To never quit looking for a way to get where you're supposed to go.



ANT PHILOSOPHY



ANTS THINK WINTER ALL SUMMER

- You can't be so naïve as to think summer will last forever.
- So ants are gathering their winter food in the middle of summer.

LESSON: It is important to be realistic. Think ahead.



ANT PHILOSOPHY



ANTS THINK SUMMER ALL WINTER

- During the winter, ants remind themselves, “This won’t last long; we’ll soon be out of here.”
- At the first warm day, the ants are out.
- If it turns cold again, they’ll dive back down, but then they come out the first warm day.

LESSON: Stay positive at all times. Keep hope before your eyes. To every thing turn, turn, turn.





ANT PHILOSOPHY



ALL-THAT-YOU-POSSIBLY-CAN

- How much will an ant gather during the summer to prepare for the winter?
- All that he possibly can.

LESSON: Do all you can....and more!



*The labor of the
righteous
leads to life.*

(Proverbs 10:16)



IN CONCLUSION...



ANT PHILOSOPHY

- 1) Never Give Up
- 2) Look Ahead
- 3) Stay Positive
- 4) Do All You Can



"You can make a mountain out of an ant hill!"



Consider The Ant: Be Diligent by Kenneth M. Hoeck



**HAPPY
SABBATH!**

THANK YOU!

BE DILIGENT AS HE IS DILIGENT.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of
this very thing, that he which hath
begun a good work in you will perform
it until the day of Jesus Christ:



**PRAISE THE
LORD!**

**HAPPY
SABBATH!**

PEACE TO YOU!

**HAPPY
SABBATH!**

**Be an Ant, man! LOVE IN
CHRIST!**



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Keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ

**LOVE GOD
+ LOVE THY NEIGHBOR
= SHARE THE GOSPEL!**