

# Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

## BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 26:13-28

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**13** The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road!  
There is a lion in the streets!"

**14** As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on  
his bed.

**15** The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears  
him out to bring it back to his mouth.

**16** The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven  
men who can answer sensibly.

**17** Whoever meddles in a quarrel not his own is like  
one who takes a passing dog by the ears.

**18** Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and  
death

**19** is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, "I  
am only joking!"

**20** For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there  
is no whisperer, quarreling ceases.

**21** As charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a  
quarrelsome man for kindling strife.

**22** The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels;  
they go down into the inner parts of the body.

**23** Like the glaze covering an earthen vessel are  
fervent lips with an evil heart.

**24** Whoever hates disguises himself with his lips and  
harbors deceit in his heart;

**25** when he speaks graciously, believe him not, for  
there are seven abominations in his heart;

**26** though his hatred be covered with deception, his  
wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.


**27** Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and a stone will  
come back on him who starts it rolling.

**28** A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering  
mouth works ruin. The name of the LORD is a strong  
tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

## DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 26:13-28

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In September of 2008, Charlie and I lived in Galveston County and experienced first-hand the devastation of Hurricane Ike. Throughout our community electricity was out for weeks and the majority of traffic signs and signals had been destroyed. People that lived in the community knew where traffic signs and signals were supposed to be located but visitors did not. Imagine for a moment what life would be like with no traffic signs, or signals. Mass chaos became the norm on our roadways. This passage is packed with warnings signs and signals about the nature of our flesh. The temptation to be lazy and the temptation to allow our tongue free rein. Much like roadways without traffic signs and signals, ignoring the warnings in this passage will bring chaos and devastation.

How easy it is to get caught up in our desire for comfort and put off the work we should be doing. I can easily get caught in the pit of procrastination, by deferring tasks that I dislike. If I am not careful, I will become very busy with "work" that I prefer, instead of tackling something I believe will be difficult, uncomfortable, or take more time than I want to devote. The picture of the sluggard in verse 14, squeaking like a door hinge that needs oil as he rolls in bed is a powerful image. I can't help but think of the squeaking as groaning and excuses. Oh, the list of things that everybody said, somebody should do, anybody could do, but nobody did.

Although we may be tempted to avoid tasks we dislike and seek physical comfort, our tongues seem to always be willing to "work". Our tongues can bring life or death (Proverbs 18:21). Proverbs 26 verses 18 and 19 make me think about the use of sarcasm. I am definitely guilty of making sarcastic comments. The word sarcasm comes from the Greek word 'sarkazein'. Sarkazein means to rip or tear flesh like dogs. When I think about the root meaning of sarcasm, I can't help but be convicted by the foolishness of my tongue. There is no reason I should allow my tongue to rip or tear the flesh of my husband, children, or coworkers for a quick laugh. However, I can often find myself using the weapon of sarcasm on a whim.

I pray that we, as the body of Christ, would evaluate and consider doing the work everybody said, somebody should do, anybody could do, but nobody did. May we hold ourselves accountable and seek forgiveness for our idle hands and the careless words on our lips.

## Questions:

1. The 80/20 principle is a belief that in many organizations 20% of the people do 80% of the work. What specifically are you contributing as a worker in God's kingdom?
2. Do you need to evaluate your use of sarcasm? If so, how do you plan to begin addressing this issue?
3. Do you need to seek forgiveness and accountability in one of these areas?