**Land Mines #2 (Lazyness // Self-discipline) English**

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Land Mines / Laziness and Apathy; Discipline / 1 Co 9:24–27

› Introduction

Land Mines (Graphic)

Illustration:

Landmines are buried in such a way that the enemy can not easily see them so that when he steps on it, the mines detones and does damage to a soldier.

Landmines are a tool that is used by an army to DEFEND (defending mechanism, not attacking) its from invaders. So, they are placed on fields, bridges, and/or camps.

Now mines are designed to mutilate not kill soldier, so that when this happens a soldier is not able to continue his/her mission.

Connection: In a similar way, Satan, the ruler of this world ([John 12.31](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNET.Jn12.31); [John 16.11](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNET.Jn16.11)) and/or god of this age/world ([2 Cor 4.4](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNET.2Co4.4)) has placed landmines in our path because Jesus came to rescue ([Gal. 1.4](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNET.Ga1.4)) us from our slavery to Satan, in this way invading Satan’s place and he defending himself with mines .... all kinds of mines like the one we saw last week: pride.

Now, when we step on this mines they can mutilate our souls and hinder us from running the Christian race - the Christian life - the Christian mission!!!

**Trans**: So, today we will look at one mine in particular, the damage it causes when we step on it, and how we can detect it in order to overcome it.

› Body

The mine of  laziness .

• I doubt many people think they have stepped on this mine, and that is because in our American culture we praise productivity, overwork, and diligence.

Let’s see what the God says about laziness in the area of work...

**Proverbs 12:24 NLT**

24 Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave.

**Proverbs 24:30–34 NLT**

30 I walked by the field of a lazy person, the vineyard of one with no common sense. 31 I saw that it was overgrown with nettles. It was covered with weeds, and its walls were broken down. 32 Then, as I looked and thought about it, I learned this lesson: 33 A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest— 34 then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber.

Let’s see what the Bible says about laziness in the area of our spiritual life...

[Hebrews 6:10–12](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNIV.Heb6.10-12) (NIV)

10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. 11 We want each of you to show this same **diligence** to the very end, so that what you **hope** for may be fully realized. 12 We do not want you to become **lazy**, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

So we can deduce right away that laziness is not good, it is a problem, and we can see a definition:

**Laziness is the unwillingness to work when one can, given all the resources one has at one’s disposal.**

• Resources like life, health, time, body, abilities, finances, etc.

• Resources for our Christian life: justified (by faith through grace), indwelling of God-Spirit, Holy Book, Family (church)

**The damage of laziness : poverty, slavery, hopeless, etc.**

**A reason for laziness can be a lack of purpose (motivation)...**

• 5 Areas/aspects of being human (Pete Scazzero): Spiritual, Physical, Emotional, Social, Intellectual

**Trans**: Now, it is possible that we can be practicing diligence (self-discipline) in some areas of our lives because we have self-discipline in this area driven by purpose expecting a reward (i.e. work, athletics). But today I want to suggest that we prioritize one area of our lives free of laziness, that in turn will lead/drive all other 4 areas of our lives in its proper place accompanied with diligence and live with purpose/reward as God desires and pleases Him.

TO BE CLEAR: The work-out of our salvation is a byproduct of the free gift of salvation (new life)

[Ephesians 2:8–10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Eph2.8-10) (NIV)

8 For it is **by** **grace** you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the **gift** of God—9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus **to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

So the area of priority who drives the rest of our other areas that make us human is...

**Driving Aspect:  spiritual  (Kingdom of God)**

• All areas of our live are mingled together, but this kingdom area is the driving force of the rest for a follower of Christ. We are kingdom citizens, seeking this citizenship for others out of love, we live by kingdom values.

• So when it is not PRIORITY without self discipline … something else will take #1 place with diligence … and that could be because we have found purpose/reward in that #1 area.

Trans: Let’s see what is our purpose/motivation in the Kingdom life ...

[1 Corinthians 9:19–23](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNET.1Co9.19-23) (NIV)

19 Though I am **free** and belong to no one, I have made myself a **slave** to everyone, **to win** as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, **to win** the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as **to win** those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as **to win** those not having the law. 22 To **the weak** I became weak, **to win** the weak. I have become all things to all people **so that** by all possible means **I might save some**. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

**Paul’s point**: Just as he has relinquished his right of receiving financial support for his work in the ministry of the gospel, so are the Corinthians to relinquish their rights (they claim they have; self-denial) with the PURPOSE of saving some (making disciples of Jesus).

**Principle: One’s purpose determines one’s lifestyle.**

How to save some: Adapting yourself to them… (3 groups)

• Jews: adapt by keeping commands he doesn’t have to keep like food laws, circumcision (Timothy), purification rites ([Acts 21.20-26](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNET.Ac21.20-26)), sacrifice laws, purity laws. (Jesus fulfilled many of this so he/we don’t need to keep them)

• Gentiles: adapt by not living according to the OT law, but that doesn’t mean that he engages in sinful behavior because now he lives under the law of Christ.

• The weak (the marginalized: poor, uneducated, low social standing)…given the context of ch. 8 this may be wrong. But with the context it is speaking of those people who may see Christianity as bad if one eats anything (like idol meat): but the point here is to adapt by coming to them, lowering oneself per say.

**Principle: One adapts to everyone with the purpose of saving them but without becoming entangled in sinful behavior that is not holy.**

So, what is the **motivation or purpose to overcome laziness** in our spiritual walk...

**Kingdom motivation (purpose):
 Holiness  (Be like Jesus)
 Salvation  (Rescue Mission like Jesus)**

• Another way to say this is to make disciples of Christ; rescue slaves from slavery to satan to freedom and life in Christ; bring people from darkness into light; save through the gospel from death to life in Christ.

• This is our mission

• This is our motivation and not be lazy in this area of life

Can you imagine playing football without GOAL LINE … just playing for fun?

Can you imagine working for no pay, or promotion, just for the heck of it?

Can you imagine living the Christian life without purpose/goal?

**MTR**: **What is your purpose in life (money, people, power)**?

**Trans**: Now Paul moves on to show the Corinthians an ingredient we need to live this kingdom purpose faithfully...

[1 Corinthians 9:24–27](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNET.1Co9.24-27) (NIV)

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the **prize**? **Run** in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into **strict training** (exercise self-control). They do it to get a **crown** that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will **last forever**. 26 Therefore I do not run like someone running **aimlessly**; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. 27 No, I strike a blow to **my body** and make it my **slave** (self-control) so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be **disqualified** for the prize.

**Paul’s point**: using an athletic metaphor Paul teaches the Corinthians how their lifestyle should be determined by their purpose/goal … by means of a disciplined, self-controlled, self-denying life style.

**Self-discipline  is how we overcome laziness.**

**Kingdom  prize :
New body (eternal life)**

**Damages of laziness in this area:
No prize, aimless life, dysfunctional marriage, spiritual apathy, egocentric, emotionally sick, etc.**

A glimpse of self-discipline/diligence in this area:
Purpose, Motivation, Aim, Joy, Progressive holiness, Future hope (prize).

› Conclusion

**How do I overcome laziness** with diligence in the spiritual area? (…because this will drive other areas in your life.

**1.  Decide  what is first in your life. (Kingdom of God vs kingdom of satan)**

**2.  Run  (live) toward the goal (motivation). (holiness & mission)**

• In marriage / relationships: remember your goal/reward (to love my wife, to respect my husband, to forgive my enemy … for his/her salvation or holiness)… but how do I grow in this, see next step

• In physical life, emotional life: remember you goal of holiness/mission

**3.  Discipline  your body by by training self-control by the power/guidance of the Spirit. (From duty to delight)**

Can’t run a marathon/triathlon without training; training in bible reading = have plan (I am behind but still at it … finding delight)

• Listen to Jesus (Bible Reading/Meditation)

• Talk to Jesus (Bible Prayer/Journal)

• Live by Jesus (Obeying Holy Spirit for Holy life)

• Rescue with Jesus and his team (Mission living)

• Summary: BE with Jesus to DO with Jesus

In marriage / relationships: your body will be enticed by satan and sinful desires to mistreat your wife, disrespect your husband, and not lead your kids in a Christian way…but we/discipiline our bodies by coming to Jesus, listening to him and allowing the holy to help us obey him

• Goal: how to reach the goal (holiness/mission) = love her as Christ (learn this by being with Jesus) … so I discipline my words (control).

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