> “He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.” — *Proverbs 18:9*

Answer:

This verse teaches a powerful truth: laziness is not just a personal flaw—it’s destructive. According to Scripture, a lazy person is likened to someone who causes real harm. In other words, neglecting our responsibilities can result in damage just as serious as deliberate wrongdoing.

This verse reflects the biblical principle of stewardship. In Genesis 2:15, God placed Adam in the Garden *“to tend and keep it”*—work was part of God’s design from the beginning. So when we treat work lightly, especially work God has entrusted to us, we are violating that divine principle.

Think of a bridge engineer. If he is careless or lazy, the structure might be unsafe. That doesn’t just waste resources—it puts lives at risk. His negligence is no different from that of a person who

destroys intentionally. Jesus Himself said,

> “For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required”*(Luke 12:48).*

Laziness in our duties—especially when others depend on us—can have deadly consequences.

This also applies to the spiritual realm. Many people, when they don’t see fast results in ministry, turn to shortcuts. They begin crafting messages that appeal to emotions rather than truth. They invent teachings that attract crowds but lack biblical foundation. This is what Paul warned about in 2 Timothy 4:3–4

> “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires... they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”

Such shortcuts, born out of impatience and laziness, do not build God’s Kingdom—they damage it. We end up doing God’s work without God’s heart or truth, which leads to spiritual destruction.

That’s why the Bible gives a sober warning in Jeremiah 48:10

> “Cursed is he who does the work of the Lord deceitfully, and cursed is he who keeps back his sword from blood.”

This verse tells us that God takes His work seriously. When we are called—whether as pastors, singers, teachers, evangelists, or in any ministry—we must accept the responsibility that comes with it. As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:16–17

> “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!... I have been entrusted with a stewardship.”

This speaks to our role as servants and stewards of God’s work. A

steward must be faithful (see 1 Corinthians 4:2). Laziness not only fails that standard—it endangers the people we’re supposed to serve.

So, Proverbs 18:9 isn’t just a call to diligence—it’s a warning. Laziness is not neutral; it produces fruit just as much as action does—only in the form of destruction.

May the Lord give us grace to be diligent, faithful stewards in every work He has assigned to us.

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