

### Taking it Home

- Describe what you believe sacred (spiritual) opportunities are (God, Bible, Family, Church)? Do you find yourself neglecting sacred opportunities for the trivial, unimportant pursuits/ interests of life?
- Evaluate your spiritual life; can you clearly identify areas in your life that are drawing you away from your God designed role as a Christian, spouse, parent, spiritual pursuits? If you discover areas you desire to change: (1) Repent; (2) Take a sabbatical from the trivial things that are drawing you away from sacred opportunities; (3) seek an accountability partner to help you maintain balance in your life.

### Resource Library

Dr. John MacArthur, *The Only way to Happiness: The Beatitudes*, Moody Publishers

Dr. Charles Swindoll, *Improving Your Serve*, Thomas Nelson

Dr. John MacArthur, *Anxious for Nothing: God's Cure for the Cares of the Soul*, David C. Cook Publishers

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit [pastormatthew.net](http://pastormatthew.net) and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

7 Deadly Sins  
Sloth  
1 Samuel 2

Dr. Matthew R. St. John  
Bethel Church  
October 3, 2010

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## SLOTH

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit [www.bethelc.com](http://www.bethelc.com)

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 3, 2010

1 Samuel 2

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**Quick Review:** Eli, the high priest, though apparently a moral man himself, had lost control of his priestly sons who went so far as to appropriate for themselves the choice meat of the sacrificial animals which rightfully belonged to the Lord as His offering. Eli's sons had replaced the sacred duties of the priesthood with utterly meaningless and petty pursuits that had caused them to be slothful of their duties to God.

## My Story

- Slothfulness can be defined as passionately pursuing trivial pursuits while neglecting important matters, including spiritual matters. Can you recall from your experiences with friends or family someone you know who passionately pursued meaningless desires but neglected their duties to home, family, faith and work? Did it cause major problems? Describe what happened.
- Do you find yourself pursuing meaningless attractions that consume much of your time (i.e., video games, internet, T.V., hobbies, or recreation) yet the important things you could or should be doing, do not get accomplished? Describe.

## Growing Deeper

- Pastor Matthew shared what Slothfulness is **NOT**. What were some of the descriptions Pastor Matthew told us slothfulness is **NOT**?
- Pastor Matthew defined slothfulness as a *“replacement of sacred opportunities while passionately pursuing meaningless and petty things.”* What are some of the meaningless and petty things people pursue which cause them to abandon sacred & meaningful opportunities?
- Eli's two sons, Phinehas and Hophni (Cf. 1 Sam. 34) abandoned their sacred opportunities of their priestly position to pursue completely empty, meaningless, slothful behavior, focusing on sinful activities while neglecting spiritual matters. Commitment to empty pursuits is temporary and destructive; what steps did Pastor Matthew give for reversing this destructive behavior? (Cf. James 4:7-10; 1 John 1:9; Philippians 3:19-20; Colossians 3:1-2)
- A diligent Christian finds time for God crafted opportunities in their life. **READ** the Scriptures below and **interpret** what God crafted opportunities are that contain eternal benefits: Deut. 6:5-7; Psalm 119:11-16; Matt. 6:33; Ephesians 5:1-2; Colossians 3:23-24; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.
- **Challenge:** A wise man once stated, *“if you look at where a person spends most of their time it will reveal the priorities they've set for their life.”* Make a detailed timetable of the amount of time you spend in **ALL** your activities throughout the week. What does your list reveal? Based on what your timetable reveals, what are your priorities of life? Where does God come out on your priority list? Family? Trivial and meaningless pursuits?