



Pastor Scott Archer 03.22.2015\*  
Central Congregational Church  
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"  
www.cclamesa.com

## The Stain of Spiritual Lethargy (a.k.a. Sloth)

2 Peter 1:3-11

Series: Stained – The Truth About Sin, Salvation and Sanctification

**Sloth:** physical and/or spiritual laziness or lethargy due to...

- ❖ Comfortable complacency – I don't need anything.
- ❖ Defeated despair – I can't do it, so why try?

### Central Passage

**2 Peter 1:5–8 (NIV)** — 5 For this very reason, **make every effort** to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 **For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Central Thought:** Because we can't fail, it only makes sense to make it our highest priority to pursue the life we were created for and called to by God in Christ Jesus.

**What's your life goal?**

**What's God's goal for your life?**

- ❖ To live a godly, Christ-like life, that honors God and blesses others.

**2 Peter 1:3 (NIV)** — 3 His divine power has given us everything we need **for a godly life** through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

**1 Peter 1:14–16 (NIV)** — 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 **But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."**

**What would you do if you knew you couldn't fail?**

**Do you believe that you can be a godly person?**

- ❖ God says, in Christ, the answer is absolutely yes!

**2 Peter 1:3 (NIV)** — 3 His divine power **has given us everything we need** for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

**What is the primary focus of your effort right now?**

**Mary and Martha – A story of misplaced priorities.**

**Luke 10:41–42 (NIV)** — 41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

- ❖ The pursuit of God is the greatest goal with the most sure result.

**Matthew 6:33 (NIV)** — 33 But **seek first** his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

**Philippians 2:12–13 (NIV)** — 12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—**continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.**

**Homework/Questions**

- ❖ Read and reflect on Matthew 6:25-33; Luke 10:38-42; 2 Peter 1:1-11
- ❖ Consider how and where you are expending your physical and emotional energy in light of these passages.