

Twelve Time-Wasting Thieves

By Richard Baxter

(1615-1691)

“Redeeming the time.” Colossians 4:5

“That you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way.” Colossians 1:10

Thief 1. One of the greatest time-wasting sins, consists of *idleness* or *sloth*.

Thief 2. The next thief or time-waster, is *excess of sleep*.

Thief 3. Another time-waster, is an *inordinate adorning of the body*.

Thief 4. Another time-wasting thief, is unnecessary pomp and *extravagance* in household furniture and domestic entertainments.

Thief 5. Another time-wasting sin, is needless *feastings, gluttony, and drinking*.

Thief 6. Another time-waster, is *idle talk*.

Thief 7. Another thief which would steal your time, is *vain and sinful company*.

Thief 8. Another notorious time-wasting thief, is needless, *inordinate sports and games* — which are masked with the deceitful title of *recreations*.

Thief 9. Another time-wasting thief, is *excess of worldly cares and business*.

Thief 10. Another time-waster, is *vain, ungoverned and sinful thoughts*.

Thief 11. Another dangerous time-wasting sin, is the reading of *worthless books, plays, romances, and novels*. And also *unprofitable studies*, undertaken but for pride and vain-glory, or the pleasing of a carnal or curious mind.

Thief 12. But the *master-thief* that robs men of their time, is *an unsanctified, ungodly heart*; for this loses time, whatever men are doing — because they never intend to do anything for the glory of God.

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do — do it all for the glory of God!” 1 Corinthians 10:31