

# 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*