Much of this chapter has emphasized the importance of maining our focus on the important things. This section continues the theme in an extremely practical way. We must work to establish ourselves before we can buy (or build) a home and start a family. We must then maintain our homes and families with continued dilligent effort. And we are not to be distracted! Verses 28-29 warn against gossip and the urge to get even with our neighbors. These are apparently the failings of a man “void of understanding,” whose vineyard is overgrown and broken down. According to these verses, those who fail to apply consistent dedication in their work may actually have poverty sneak up and attack them!

**Proverbs 24:27-34**

**Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house.**

**Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive not with thy lips.**

**Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.**

**I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;**

**And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.**

**Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.**

**Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:**

**So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.**

**Badgers (European)**

There are several different types of badgers—European, American, Asian, honey badgers (Africa) and more—and they can be found in a wide variety of places. All the badgers have short, wide bodies with short legs well designed for digging, and they all live underground in burrows called setts. The European badger is one of the largest of the family, reaching up to 37 pounds just before its winter sleep period. Like other badgers, the European badger is nocturnal. They are also extremely social animals. Their setts have multiple chambers and entrances, and include systems of underground passages of hundreds of feet long. These elaborate tunnel systems may house several badger families. Badgers usually mate for life, and only the dominant pair will reproduce, while others in the “clan” help with childcare. But unlike other burrowing animals, who often only use the burrow as a temporary nursery, badger families use their setts for decades. This extended usage means that badgers must maintain their homes. So badgers are correspondingly fussy over the cleanliness of their burrow, carrying in fresh bedding and removing soiled material. Badgers are sufficiently concerned with cleanliness to have “latrines” strategically situated outside their setts or en route to other setts. So badgers conduct their home life much along the lines that Proverbs suggests! They mate for life, and they have a plan for childcare. They have a home and a strong focus on their home maintenance strategy. All of which may go some way to explain why badgers are doing so well all over the world!

Amazon Prime

Animal’s Building Skills [sic]

Start: 18:52 (31:09 from End)

End: 20:54 (29:07 from End)

Start: 24:41 (25:20 from End)

End: 25:15 (24:46 from End)