

# The Ebenezer Press

Don't waste away in Margaritaville

By Pastor Josh

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When my family and I were on our most recent vacation, we had the opportunity to eat at a restaurant named after that famous Jimmy Buffet song, “Margaritaville”. The place had great food and beachy relaxing atmosphere. As I was enjoying my cheeseburger in paradise, (actually I didn’t get a cheeseburger, but it goes with the theme here) I realized I’ve never actually listen to any of Jimmy Buffet’s material. So on our drive home back to PA I pulled up a Jimmy Buffet playlist on my Apple Music and began to indulge.

Long story short, I really enjoy his music! I would go so far as to say I’m a fan. Overtop of the relaxed blends of beach and country style music are lyrics that (at least on the surface) paint a laid back, take things as they come, picture. It’s catchy and I like it! However, I do so with a certain amount of caution that one would find advised in the book of Proverbs. More on Proverbs in a moment, for now lets focus on the message of these songs because as I listened I found myself thinking this could be a whole lifestyle! Now, you may accuse me of over analyzing something as simple as a catchy song, but put all the hits together in a playlist and you begin to see a worldview pattern emerge.

I’ve said before, worldview is extremely important and given enough context it always shows itself. One song all alone may be harmless, but as toe (or finger, I don’t discriminate) tapping as Margaritaville is the message is one of a life that hides from problems, oozes through each day with no purpose or direction, and uses alcohol to drown and soothe the conscience. The world would identify this as Hedonism. The Bible, in the book of Proverbs (told you we would get back here) uses the term “sluggard”.

Now just a note on Proverbs. These are not promises, as some might think, they are simply good-actions. When we break the word down Pro-Verbs, we get pro=good and verbs=actions; Good actions. In other words, what the writer of proverbs is trying to communicate to the reader is if you put this action into practice, the most likely outcome will be good.

So, what do proverbs say about this Margaritaville lifestyle? The term it uses is “sluggard”. A person who prefers inaction to anything else.

## Quick Look: Upcoming Events

Tuesday Bible Studies  
June 10, 17, 24  
9:30a

Mission Commission  
Cookie Dough  
Tues. June 3 @6p

CPR Class  
Saturday June 7

Men’s Breakfast  
Saturday June 14, 7:30a

Movie Night  
Friday June 20, 6p

VBX  
Antrim Twp. Park  
Saturday 28 @ 10am

Sunday Worship  
Service  
June 29 @ 10a

**ATTENTION!!!**

**Please take note!!**

We are gonna be doing some different things this summer! One thing of note is that we will be having our Sunday service at a special location on Sunday June 29 (last Sunday in June).

We will be celebrating our VBX program and have our Worship Service at Antrim Twp. Park. Please bring your own comfortable lawn chair and an item to share for a picnic after service!

Come on out and invite your friends!  
VBX!!! is happening  
Saturday June 28 from 10a-3p  
at Antrim Twp. Park  
Pavilion by the Soccer Fields  
Lunch included!



Proverbs 6 tells sluggards to look to the ant, how it works and stores up for itself and is ready for lean times.

Chapter 20 says the sluggard does not plough in season, so when its time to collect food, they look but have none.

A few verses in Chapter 26 talk about the sluggard being so lazy they reach into a bowl of food but can't bring their hand back up to the mouth, they just lie in bed all day!

Now don't hear me wrong, rest is a good thing. God calls us as His people to take a day to rest and reflect on His goodness, but we must rest from work...not more resting.

To go to the opposite end of this spectrum, the Bible talks about how hard work and suffering (not in the sense of pain) are good because they yield good results. Since I am running out of space here are the verses for you to look up for yourself: Proverbs 27:12, 17, 18, and 21.

Let me get to the point, as great as the song is this Margaritaville lifestyle is not the purpose for which God gave us life. God gives us the ability to enjoy and take pleasure in life and put us in a world filled with wonders, but the pursuit that enjoyment and pleasure should not have the ultimate place in our live...God should!

One more proverb to end, Proverbs 27:19, "As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart,". What is your life reflecting? Because whatever it is, that is what is most important to you!

### THINGS TO BE PRAYING FOR!!

- BE IN PRAYER FOR OUR EBENEZER FAMILY WHO IS IN THE HOSPITAL OR AT HOME RECOVERING
- PRAY FOR NITRO YOUTH GROUP MISSION TEAM- JUNE 22-27
- KEEP THE PASTORS AND ELDERS IN PRAYER!
- PRAY FOR GOD'S BLESSING FOR EBENEZER, AS WE SEEK HIS GUIDANCE AND STRIVE TO BE THE HELPING S.T.O.N.E.