

Steve Whitacre
SESSION 1

I. THE BIG PICTURE:

- **A simple definition:**
Faithfully stewarding your God-given resources to serve God and others by doing the right things well.
- “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:15–16).

II. BEWARE SINS THAT KEEP US FROM WORKING WELL

- **Pride**

“Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.” (Deuteronomy 8:11–18).

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3).

- **Laziness**

Laziness is...

- Comical: “The sluggard buries his hand in the dish and will not even bring it back to his mouth.” (Proverbs 19:24).
- Offensive: “Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him.” (Proverbs 10:26).
- Proud: “The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.” (Proverbs 26:16).
- Tragic: “The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.” (Proverbs 20:4).

"But the realization that I could be simultaneously busy and lazy, that I could be a hectic sluggard, that my busyness was no immunity from laziness, became a life-altering and work-altering insight. What I learned is that:

- Busyness does not mean I am diligent
- Busyness does not mean I am faithful
- Busyness does not mean I am fruitful

Recognizing the sin of procrastination, and broadening the definition to include busyness, has made a significant alteration in my life.” CJ Mahaney, *Biblical Productivity*

- **Distraction**

III. RESOLVE TO BE GOOD STEWARDS

- **Deliberate**
- **Dependent**
- **Delight**

IV. Resources:

- *Biblical Productivity*, CJ Mahaney
 - *Shopping for Time*, Carolyn Mahaney and Nicole Whitacre
 - *Crazy Busy*, Kevin DeYoung
 - *Getting Things Done*, David Allen
 - *What's Best Next*, Matt Perman
 - "Get Your Inbox to Zero Every Day," Matt Perman (<http://bit.ly/2bOqdB6>)
 - *Putting Off Procrastination*, Walter Henegar, *Journal of Biblical Counseling*, Fall 2001
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