

THANK YOU  
FOR JOINING US TODAY!

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**PARENTING CONFERENCE**

**Friday Night September 7th from 6-8pm  
and Saturday September 8th from 9am-12pm.**

Four principles that can radically change the way  
you raise your children by Paul Tripp.

Childcare: Is available on the church property with RSVP only.

Cost: \$20 per family.

Learn more at [ourelement.org/parentingconference](http://ourelement.org/parentingconference)

**BAPTISMS**

**Celebration: September 30th at 1pm**

Interested in getting baptized? Come to one of our

**short informational meetings:**

**Aug 26, Sept 2 & 9 following each service in the office.**

**JOIN OUR WEEKLY EMAIL**

**Stay up to date in your inbox!**

Sign up at [ourelement.org](http://ourelement.org) or email  
[connect@ourelement.org](mailto:connect@ourelement.org) and say, "Join mailing list"



**WORK, LAZINESS, SLUGGARD  
PART I**

**Today's Verses:**

Proverbs 14:23  
Proverbs 26:14  
Psalm 127:2  
Genesis 1:31  
John 5:16-17  
Proverbs 22:29  
Proverbs 12:24

Proverbs 20:14  
Ecclesiastes 2:24  
1 Thess 4:11  
2 Timothy 3:16-17  
Proverbs 15:22  
1 Corinthians 7:21  
1 Corinthians 10:31

2 Thess 3:10  
Exodus 20:15  
Proverbs 27:18  
Proverbs 26:13  
Ecclesiastes 2:24-25  
Colossians 3:23  
1 Corinthians 15:10



**ELEMENT**  
christian church

[www.ourelement.org/proverbs](http://www.ourelement.org/proverbs)

# WORK, LAZINESS, SLUGGARD PART I

Welcome to Element! We are working our way through the book of Proverbs, which is a wisdom book in the Bible. Today we are going to be talking about Work, Laziness, and Sluggards! I know, you are probably thinking that you already work Monday through Friday (or more) and may not really be interested in hearing more talk about work. However, what the Bible says about work is very important and the idea behind the book of Proverbs is that it allows us to live in the freedom of Christ, which is a pretty counter cultural idea.

Biblical Principles about work:

- Proverbs 11:1 - A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight.”
- Proverbs 22:29 Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before Kings; he will not stand before obscure men.
- Proverbs 12:24 - The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.
- Proverbs 20:14 - “Bad, bad” says the buyer, but when he goes away, then he boasts.
- Proverbs 16:26 - A worker’s appetite works for him; his mouth urges him on.
- Proverbs 27:18 - He who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who looks after his master will be honored.
- Proverbs 26:13 – The sluggard says, “there is a lion in the road, a fierce lion roaming the streets!”

The book of Proverbs is very practical in its wisdom. We are told to be fair, work with skill, improve on what we have been given, be motivated, and be a blessing in how we work.

There are very few jobs that are “non-Christian Jobs,” a Christian can do all jobs and it is foolish to not take a job because “it is not good enough for God.” Jesus himself was a carpenter for 30 years before starting formal ministry. Was his work as a carpenter a waste of his time? No, God was working his job well and was preaching good news even then; this tells us all that we do can be glorifying to God.

## Introduction

Sometimes work is hard, but with due diligence it is God who will bring satisfaction to our labor. It is by God’s grace that we are what we are. It is helpful to understand that all work gets done by God’s grace and our hard work, both. Work and grace are meant to be friends, it is God’s grace that enables us to work hard and well. Work is not a necessary evil, it is a blessing. We get the idea of work from God who is a working creator. Work is more than what you get paid to do. .

## Discussion

What do you do for work?

What is the best and worst jobs you have had?

## Explanation

What biblical principal of work is the hardest to follow? Why do you feel that way?

Do you think work is a blessing or a curse?

## Application – Read 1 Cor 15:10 and John 5:16-17

Do you enjoy work?

If you had YOU as an employee, what would you say you need to grow in?

Is there anything at your job in which you need to be a better employee?

Do you think you represent Jesus by your work ethic? How?

## Mission

Do you believe there are Christian and Non-Christian Jobs?

One of the best ways we can be missional at work is by doing truly excellent work. When we work well we honor God and bless other people. How do you currently bless others by how you work?.

## Homework - Read Proverbs 14:23

How do you define work?

## Discussion Key

Red – Easy level, not much intimacy, Blue – Intended to dig a bit deeper

Black – Designed to create deeper conversation