



March

Evangelism/Vocation

Daily - For this month, your Daily disciplines include:

- **Scripture reading** - Read all assigned passages for the month of January
- **Journaling** - Use the H.E.A.R. acrostic to read and study Scripture
- **Prayer** - Use the R in H.E.A.R. to guide your prayers

Weekly - Weekly disciplines include:

- **Scripture Memory** - This month, you will memorize:
 - Acts 1:8
 - 1 Corinthians 15:58
 - Colossians 3:23
- **Reading** - [The Sacredness of Secular Work - Jordan Raynor](#)
- **Group Check-In** - Stay connected with your group throughout the month for encouragement and accountability

Monthly - Monthly disciplines include:

- **The Spiritual Discipline:** The Sacredness of Secular Work Workbook
 - This month, as you read the book, The Sacredness of Secular Work, complete the selected excerpts from the included workbook. Complete all 5 practices (below) to help you see how your job matters for eternity. Walk through your workbook in your next David's Men meeting and discuss how it helped you apply what you learned from the reading.
- **Man Date** - Schedule a one-on-one Man Date with one of the guys in your group for a time to get to know each other more and to talk about things that are going on in each other's lives.
- **Book Review**- Prepare notes to share with your group. Your notes should include the following:
 - List your key takeaways.
 - Discuss how you will apply it to your life now.
 - Bring your takeaways and application points to your monthly meeting.
- **Group Meeting** - Your group will meet each month for accountability and to deepen your relationship with one another. You will come prepared to discuss the book, review Scripture memory, and share reflections from journaling, your man-date, and your spiritual discipline.

REMINDER: Each month, go to <https://biltmorechurch.com/davidsmen> to download materials.

Practice 1: Identify How Your Current Work Fits into the First Commission

In Chapter 1 of *The Sacredness of Secular Work*, we broke down the various components of the First Commission God handed down to humankind in Genesis 1:26-28. Highlight or circle the element of this job description that best describes the work you do today:

FILL THE EARTH: create good things

SUBDUE: make the earth more useful for human beings' benefit and enjoyment

RULE: implement God's sovereign rule on earth as it is in heaven

Write in your own words how your current work matches the job description you highlighted above:

How does knowing that this is the thing God created you to do in Act 1 of The Unabridged Gospel and the thing he redeemed you to do in Act 3 help you see the sacredness of your seemingly "secular" work?



Practice 2: Articulate Where You See Yourself Professionally in Five Million Years

If you've ever interviewed for a job, you've likely been asked the question, "So, where do you see yourself in five years?" I want you to multiply that timeframe by a million and seriously ask yourself, "Where do you see yourself professionally in five *million* years?" In other words, what work do you want to do for eternity on the Eternal Heaven on Earth? (Obviously, nobody knows whether or not the kingdom of heaven will be fully consummated in 5,000,000 years, but for the sake of this exercise, roll with it.)

This may sound like a ridiculous exercise, but I have found it *immensely* helpful in fueling my hope and faithfulness in the present. Why? Because how we work today influences which jobs God will give us for eternity. More on that truth in Chapter 4. For now, take some time to dream about which jobs you want on the New Earth. And feel free to list many. With billions of years on our hands, we'll likely have the chance to explore many different vocations:

OK, now I want you to pick one vocation from the list above and write out what you imagine that work will be like in the Eternal Heaven on Earth. If you completed Chapter 1, Practice 2, look back at that list for ideas of what it will mean to work without the curse.



Practice 3: Judge Your Work Before God Does

In Chapter 4, you saw that one of the ways your work matters for eternity is that it significantly influences your eternal rewards. But there can be no rewards without God first judging your work.

Given God's promise to judge "each person's work impartially," (1 Peter 1:17) we'd be wise to judge our work today while we still have time to make changes that will influence eternity (see 1 Corinthians 2:15). That's exactly what I want you to do in this practice in three simple steps.

Step 1: Pray

Take a minute to pray that God would give you a glimpse of how he would judge your work if that judgment took place today.

Step 2: Ask

In *The Sacredness of Secular Work*, I used my biblically-formed imagination to share a few questions God might ask about how you worked in this life. I've added to that list of questions below. Take a minute to imagine God asking you these questions today:

- Did you work for your glory and fame or my own? (see 1 Corinthians 10:31)
- Did you risk the talents I gave you? Or did you sit on them? (see Matthew 25:14-30)
- Did you show mercy to your co-workers the way that I showed you mercy? (see Luke 6:36)
- Did you do your work with excellence, even when your bosses weren't watching? (see Ephesians 6:5-6)
- Did you "give thanks in all circumstances" at work, even the difficult ones I allowed? (see 1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- Did you "in humility value others" and their careers above your own? (see Philippians 2:3-4)
- Did you take credit for results that I alone produced in your work? (see Deuteronomy 8:18)
- Did you boldly proclaim your allegiance to me to those you worked with? (see Matthew 10:32)
- Did you honor the parents, mentors, and friends who invested in you and your work? (see Ephesians 6:1-3)
- Did you work hard to "help the weak"? (see Acts 20:35)³

³ Credit for some of these questions goes to Daniel Doriani. Daniel M. Doriani, *Work: Its Purpose, Dignity, and Transformation* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2019), 87. Kindle.



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Step 3: Judge

Imagine that you were forced to give God answers to those questions today. Which answers do you think he would be pleased with?

Which answers do you think God would be disappointed by? Said another way, which of the questions above are most convicting to you?

Write down at least one thing you will do differently as a result of going through this practice for the glory of God, the good of others, and the maximization of your eternal rewards.



Practice 4: Work Through How Your Job Currently Scratches Off the Kingdom

In Chapter 5, you saw that one of the ways your work matters for eternity is that it gives you ample opportunities to “scratch off” the thin veil between heaven and earth, specifically by:

1. Weeding out what doesn't belong in the kingdom
2. Planting what does belong in the kingdom
3. Representing your king

Highlight or circle which of the above postures best describes how you scratch off the kingdom through your work. Feel free to highlight more than one.

Now, let's get more specific. Below, I have copied the list of the marks of the consummated Kingdom of God you saw in *The Sacredness of Secular Work*. As a reminder, this is a partial list of what the world is going to be like when God fully and permanently lifts the veil between our dimension of earth and his dimension of heaven. Put a check mark next to each of the attributes you think you currently scratch off through your work:

_____ Perfect relationship with God

_____ Perfect relationships with people

_____ Justice

_____ Beauty

_____ Order

_____ Abundance

_____ Humility

_____ Cultural excellence

_____ Physical health

_____ Joy

_____ Safety

_____ Sense of belonging

_____ Freedom from anxiety

_____ Work we love to do

_____ Sustainable earth



Practice 5: Pray for the Salvation of 5 People You Work With

In Chapter 6, you saw that one of the ways your work matters for eternity is when you leverage your job to the instrumental end of making disciples. And that process ought to start with praying for the salvation of our co-workers.

Take a minute to write down the names of five people you work with whose salvation you will commit to praying for—ideally five people you have a chance to interact with frequently:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Take a moment right now to pray that “God may open a door” for you to share the gospel explicitly with these co-workers (see Colossians 4:3). If you want to take this practice to the next level (and acquire more eternal rewards (see Matthew 6:6)), commit to praying for the salvation of these five people every day. Here are a few tips for making this a habit:

- Copy the names of these people onto a post-it note that you stick on your desk or in your car
- Add a recurring to-do to your to-do list to pray for these people daily
- Make a point to quickly and quietly pray for the salvation of these people every time you see them at work or see their name in your email inbox or on Zoom

