

— *Your* —
WORK
TODAY
Matters



It Advances Gods' First Commission
It Expresses God's Calling
It Reveals God's Kingdom
It Echoes into Eternity

By Jon Byler

About the Author

Jon Byler has a passion to serve the body of Christ by using his gifts of teaching, writing and encouragement. He especially enjoys serving the leaders who build the church. He lives with his wife, Nyambura, in East Petersburg, PA. Together they pastor an emerging church and are the parents of three adult children.

Jon served in Kenya for 13 years and in different capacities in the church including pastoral ministry and leadership development, then another 15 years of international training with church leaders and 5 years of training within business organization. He has authored several books including *7 Keys to Financial Freedom*, *The Heart of Christian Leadership*, *The Art of Christian Leadership*, and *Signposts for the Journey, Vol. 1, II, and III* and several booklets on other topics. He writes a bi-weekly e-Zine *Reflections for Serving Leaders* which is distributed by email in English and Spanish. (Sign up to receive a free copy on his website.)

Jon is available for speaking and consulting especially in the areas of leadership, church growth, and missions. For more information see his website, www.LeadersServe.com.



The following is a compilation of a biweekly email newsletter series about how our daily work matters. These “Reflections for Serving Leaders” were written for serving leaders around the world to learn what it means to lead like Jesus. The issue number and date used are the dates for the original publication.

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Your Work Today Matters: It Advances God's First Commission

Issue #420, April 8, 2026

Do you ever wonder if what you do today really matters? In this series we'll explore why our daily work carries deep and lasting significance*. Our daily work occupies most of our time and energy—whether teaching students, building kitchens, plumbing homes, farming fields, writing software, or working in an office.

Most Christians are familiar with the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19–20: *“Go and make disciples of all nations.”* This is central to the mission of the church, and we tend to focus on it. But the first chapter of the Bible introduces an earlier commission:

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground” (Genesis 1:28, NIV).

This verse provides God's plan for mankind from the beginning. His call was for people to partner with Him to develop the world and extend the goodness, order and beauty He placed within it. This was His first commission and it directly relates to the work you do every day in several ways.

Your work helps fill the earth.

“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth...” God created a beautiful garden that occupied a small area, but there were vast areas untouched by His goodness, beauty and order. God didn't do that work; He gave humans the mandate to increase and fill the earth with people, homes, farms, cities and gardens. The work you do today is in some way a response to His call to fill the earth with His purposes.

Some leaders focus on creating a product or service that will produce income. But serving leaders see their work as participating in God's plan to fill the earth with His goodness, beauty and order.

Your work helps subdue the earth.

“and subdue it...” God's call to Adam and Eve to subdue the earth was a call to make it useful. This was a call to create civilization and culture—to develop art, education and culture. It was a call to explore the earth, discover the minerals hidden in the soil and the vast reserves of oil underground. It was an invitation to discover better ways to grow crops and build structures. It was a call to find ways to organize people in societies that allow them to flourish and thrive. It was a mandate to find ways to communicate and share thoughts and ideas with others. Your work today does something to make the world more useful.

Some leaders use their work to exploit the earth, seeking to maximize personal gain at the expense of others. But serving leaders see their work as a means to make the world more useful for others.

Your work helps rule over the earth.

In the final part of this commission God tells the first couple to “rule over” the world around them, particularly the animal world. This has the idea of partnering with God to take the world somewhere. God could have done this on His own, without any help from us. But He invited man to participate in His work.

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Adam was called to cultivate creation, developing its potential and bringing increasing order and beauty. He had at his disposal “gold, resin/pearls, and onyx.” (Gen. 2:10-12). Scripture later describes the New Jerusalem using similar materials—gold, onyx, and precious stones (Revelation 21:18–21)—suggesting that human work ultimately contributes to God’s unfolding purposes.

Some leaders seek power and authority to benefit themselves. But serving leaders see their work as partnership with God to bring His good rule upon the earth.

For further reflection and discussion:

How do I tend to see my work, as a necessary evil or as an integral part of God’s plan for the world? What difference does it make in my leadership?

Do I see my daily work as having equal significance traditionally recognized “Great Commission work”? How could my daily work also contribute to the work of the Great Commission?

In what specific ways does my work make the world a more useful place?

In what ways does my work help bring a bit more of God’s order, beauty, and goodness into the world?

Until next time, yours on the journey,

Jon Byler

In the next issue, we’ll look at how our daily work is an act of worship.

*Many of the thoughts in this series come from Jordan Raynor’s book “The Sacredness of Secular Work,” which I highly recommend.

Your Work Today Matters: It Expresses God's Calling

Issue #421, April 22, 2026

What do you call what you do today? If you use words like “work”, “job”, “career” or “profession” you may miss the element of God’s call on your daily activity. But the word “vocation” conveys the idea of a calling and better reflects the biblical perspective. Whether you are a farmer, a plumber, a graphic designer, a computer engineer, a manufacturer, or an office worker, your work today matters because it reflects God’s calling for you. It is a sacred vocation, just as it was for two men called to build the tabernacle during the time of Moses.

³⁰ Then Moses said to the Israelites, “See, the Lord has chosen Bezalel..., ³¹ and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— ³² to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, ³³ to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic crafts. ³⁴ And he has given both him and Oholiab..., the ability to teach others. ³⁵ He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them skilled workers and designers (Exodus 35:30-35, NIV).

These two men were called to do the work of building and furnishing the tabernacle.

Our vocation is a response to His call.

God called these two men for the special task of building the tabernacle. “See, The Lord has chosen Bezalel...and has filled him with the Spirit of God...” This calling to work in wood, metal and stones was just as genuine as God’s calling to Moses to lead the people. There are eight distinct skills mentioned in these verses, each reflecting God’s creativity through human work. We could add a long list of the many ways God calls people to fulfill His commission to “fill the earth” introduced in the previous issue.

Some leaders see their daily work as a reflection of the choices they have made about their careers. But serving leaders see their work as a response to God’s call on their lives.

Our vocation is a reflection of His excellence.

God “filled them with skill” to do the work He called them to do. The tabernacle was to be a beautiful expression of God’s glory and He expected them to complete the work with excellence. When we view our daily work as a calling from God, we will want to do the best we can to reflect His excellence. Paul echoes this when he urges us to “work with your hands...so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders...” (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12).

Some leaders view their work as simply a way to earn an income and are not concerned about the quality of their efforts. But serving leaders seek to work with excellence because they see their work as a calling from God.

Our vocation is a response of worship to His glory

These craftsmen were “filled with the Spirit” to build a place of worship for God. Their skill and excellent work was also an act of worship! They were not just cutting wood and shaping stones, they were worshipping God through their work. When God calls us to a specific work and we do it for His glory, the work itself is an act of worship. The most mundane tasks become meaningful when they are offered as worship. Paul affirms this when he says, “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians

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10:31). Some leaders work for themselves and focus on what they will gain from their efforts. But serving leaders see their work as an act of worship to God.

For further reflection and discussion:

How clearly do I see my work as a calling from God? Do I sense that God called me to my profession? How would it impact me to refer to my work as my “vocation”?

Is there any way that I see church leadership as more spiritual than other professions? In what way is my own work a “full time ministry” for God?

Do I consistently do the best work I can to bring honor to God? What would I change if He showed up tomorrow where I am working?

In what way is my daily work an act of worship? What could I do to be more aware of how my work is an offering of worship to God?

Until next time, yours on the journey,

Jon Byler

In the next issue, we’ll examine how your work reveals God’s Kingdom.

Your Work Today Matters: It Reveals God's Kingdom

Issue #422, May 6, 2026

Your daily work matters because it reveals God's Kingdom to the world! We have seen in previous issues that our work is an expression of God's original commission and that our work is a calling from Him. Now consider these verses and their implications for your daily work:

But thanks be to God, who ... uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere (2 Corinthians 2:14, NIV).

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us (2 Corinthians 5:20).

The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough (Matthew 13:33).

Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them (Ephesians 5:11).

These verses together show that Jesus came to establish and demonstrate His Kingdom, a new way of living and serving in the world. His Kingdom is a place where everything is being restored to the way things ought to be. It is a Kingdom of restored relationships, justice, beauty, and order. It is a place of safety and security, and where work is meaningful and rewarding. He chooses to spread His Kingdom through ordinary people doing their work for His glory! If this is true, how do we do this?

Our work reveals God's Kingdom as we represent the King.

God uses us to spread the "aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere." Does 'everywhere' include the place we work on a daily basis? Certainly! You are "Christ's ambassadors" where you live and where you work. You represent Him in your "ordinary" leadership decisions—keeping your word, treating people respectfully, finishing the job with excellence, and caring for the people with whom you work.

Some leaders work to promote their own kingdom and agenda. But serving leaders see their work as visible revelation of the Kingdom of Jesus.

Our work reveals God's Kingdom as we weed out what does not belong.

Our work can be a way to "expose the fruitless deeds of darkness" and root out what does not belong in the territory of the Kingdom. Your daily work may call out injustice, expose corruption or abuse, reveal inequality, refuse dishonest practices, or simply pick up the trash in a messy environment. You may confront unethical reporting or correct a misleading metric. Each action removes what does not belong and is a step towards revealing God's Kingdom.

Some leaders weed out only what does not increase profit with little thought to integrity. But serving leaders are willing to pay the price of exposing and removing anything that does not belong to the Kingdom of God.

Our work reveals God's Kingdom as we plant what belongs.

God's Kingdom is revealed as we do what is right in every context. It is revealed as we treat workers as significant people, as we pay people fair wages, as we show concern for the physical and mental wellbeing of our team, and as we take care of the environment. Writers

and musicians bring beauty to the world through art and songs; civic leaders promote laws and policies that promote justice and peace. These actions may seem small, but like yeast, they gradually influence everything around them. First one person, then another, then the community and beyond.

Some leaders plant what will produce profit. But serving leaders plant what belongs. Every serving leadership act is a revelation of a new Kingdom and reveals a bit of heaven's glory on earth.

For further reflection and discussion:

How does the reality that God entrusts me to be an ambassador for Him and to represent His Kingdom in my workplace impact my leadership? Are there ways I have demonstrated that in the past week? What will I do in the next week to better live out my calling to be His ambassador?

In what way does my work root out what does not belong in the world? Are there additional ways I might be called to root out or expose injustice, discrimination, disorder, or disunity?

Reflect on ways that your work reveals the world as it should be by answering the following questions:

How does the way I treat people in my work reflect the Kingdom?

How does our service or product make the world a better place?

How do we show respect for our environment?

How does our work promote peace and justice?

Until next time, yours on the journey,

Jon Byler

In the next issue, we'll look at how our work impacts eternity.

Your Work Today Matters: It Echoes into Eternity

Issue #423, May 20, 2026

Will anything we do today in the physical world matter in eternity? Consider the vision of the eternal kingdom shared by John and Isaiah.

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband (Rev. 21:1-2, NIV).

The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it (Rev. 21:24, 26).

And they will reign for ever and ever. (Rev. 22:5)

²¹They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²...my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They will not labor in vain... (Isaiah 65:21-23).

These passages, along with others, describe a future that is much different from what we often imagine when we think of heaven. John sees heaven coming down to a new earth, one that has been purified by fire (see 2 Peter 3:10). He sees a massive city filled with the glory of the nations. Isaiah sees work and labor as a part of this wonderful future. What does all of this have to do with our work today?

Our work today enters into eternity.

John’s vision of a glorious city also includes the kings of the earth bringing their “splendor” into it. So, it appears that some of the splendor of this earth will somehow be carried into eternity! Isaiah, in 60:6-17, mentions camels, gold and incense, flocks, ships and wood that is brought to adorn God’s sanctuary. So, it appears that when our work reflects God’s goodness, justice, creativity, and care for people, something of that work may enter the new earth!

Some leaders work hard to build and create wealth with no thought of how it may impact eternity. But serving leaders work to develop the best art, craftsmanship, creativity and products that reflect God’s goodness. They seek to create “splendor” that will enter into eternity.

Our work today endures in eternity.

Isaiah’s vision of eternity includes people building houses, planting vineyards and working with their hands. The picture Scripture paints is not an eternity without work—but work without the curse! No frustration, no futility, no wasted effort, no sweat. Just the joy of creating, developing, and filling the earth with beauty and goodness.

Some leaders look forward to completing their work and live for the times they are not working. But serving leaders embrace work to glorify God, now and in eternity.

Our work today expands in eternity

John’s vision indicates that those in the new earth “*will reign for ever and ever.*” This is the ultimate fulfillment of the original commission from Genesis 1:28 which we examined in a previous issue. While our current work partially fulfills this mandate, it will be fully expanded and realized in eternity. We will exercise authority and power free from sin—to fill the earth with God’s goodness.

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Some leaders sharpen their leadership capacity only for present success. But serving leaders develop their leadership muscles in preparation for eternal impact.

Your work today matters! From creation to eternity, scripture consistently affirms the value of human work.

For further reflection and discussion:

What elements of my current work most fully express God's beauty, creativity and goodness? What would it be like to have something of what I have done here on earth brought to Him as a part of the "splendor of the nations"? How does that energize me to do my best in my work?

In what way would it be energizing to think of my current work continuing in eternity? Are there things that I have always dreamed of doing that I might be able to accomplish in eternity?

In what ways am I developing my leadership capacity in my daily work? How might God use these skills to allow me to rule in eternity? What more can I do to prepare for that time?

Reflect on the following passages that provide more context to the principles we examined in this issue: Psalm 8:6; Isaiah 60:6-17, 65:17-25; Daniel 7:27; Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Corinthians 6:1-3; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 5:10, 21:1-21; and 22:1-5.

Until next time, yours on the journey,

Jon Byler

*Many of the thoughts in this series come from Jordan Raynor's book "The Sacredness of Secular Work," which I highly recommend.