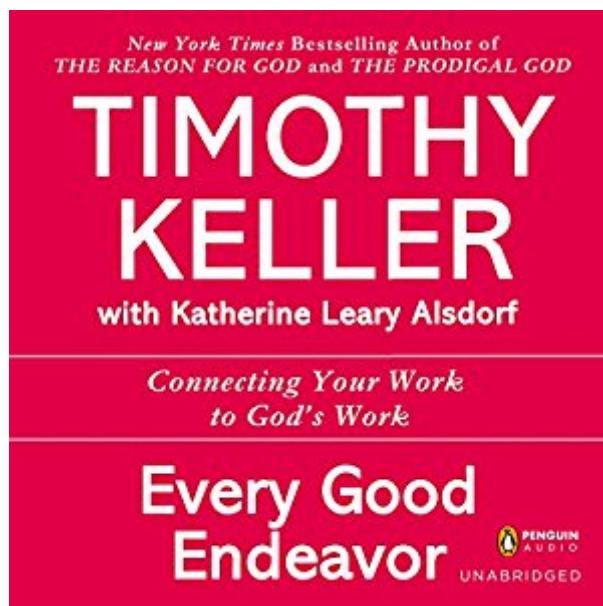


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# Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work To God's Work



## **Synopsis**

New York Times best-selling author Timothy Keller shows how God calls each of us to express meaning and purpose through our work and careers. In a work world that is increasingly competitive and insecure, people often have nagging questions: Why am I doing this work? Why is it so hard? And is there anything I can do about it? Tim Keller, pastor of New York's Redeemer Presbyterian Church and New York Times best-selling author of *The Reason for God*, has taught and counseled students, young professionals, and senior leaders on the subject of work and calling for more than 20 years. Now he puts his insights into a book for listeners everywhere, giving biblical perspectives on such pressing questions as: What is the purpose of work? How can I find meaning and serve customers in a cutthroat, bottom-line-oriented workplace? How can I use my skills in a vocation that has meaning and purpose? Can I stay true to my values and still advance in my field? How do I make the difficult choices that must be made in the course of a successful career? With deep insight and often surprising advice, Keller explains that biblical wisdom is immensely relevant to our questions about our work. In fact, the Christian view of work - that we work to serve others, not ourselves - can provide the foundation of a thriving professional and balanced personal life. Keller shows how excellence, integrity, discipline, creativity, and passion in the workplace can help others and even be considered acts of worship - not just of self-interest.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

**Synopsis:** Is work holy? What should work look like for a Christian? How do we "work to the glory of god"? This book answers all of those questions and more. I can not stress this enough, this book changed the way I look at my job and the way I do my job. Massively helpful for anyone who has a day job and wants to serve Jesus while they are doing that day job.

**Why I Read It:** I have been reading/listening to Keller for as long as I have been a follower of Jesus and he is always spot on. I read this book because I knew it would be another well balanced, thoroughly thought out and biblical take on the topic of work and how we should look at work.

**Why You Should Read It:** Do you have a day job? Are you in professional ministry and you lead people who have day jobs? Then you need to read this book. Unless you already think you have a super robust outlook on work and you think you can explain what makes your job in the cubical to be kingdom building work. Which I'm sure you can't tell me why it's kingdom building for you to be in the cubical, so you should read this book.

**Final Word:** Keller is brilliant. He is one of the most subtle, most brilliant teachers of our time. Read everything he puts out, even if you've heard it before and you think you'll be bored. Just read it anyway.

ÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  Ã“Why do you want to work? Why is it so hard to work? How can we overcome the difficulties and find satisfaction in our work through the gospel?ÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  Ã•I have always been taught that hard work is good. The harder the work, the more valuable the work. When I went to college, I had a couple of jobs on campus. Most were unexciting; usually mindless, insignificant tasks that helped the school function. This is what I assumed work would always be like, dull and boring. However, I did have one job on campus that I loved. I got to work alongside college students and help them thrive in their college experience. The moment I found out I could have a career in college student development was life-defining day. I never knew work could be meaningful, engaging, and even fun. Work is part of GodÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  ¸s story. Our first story of GodÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  ¸ the creation account ÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  ¸ is a story of God working and loving His work.ÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  Ã“Christians should places a high value on all human work (especially excellent work), done by all people, as a channel of GodÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  ¸s love for his world.ÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  Ã•As you can attain from the title, Every Good Endeavor is about the theology of work. Keller has definitely done his research. He frequently cites and references works by great theologians and Christian thinkers. The book has a very simple message but it did drag on too long, but it is good nonetheless.

As someone who has worked as a pastor, a barista, a bus driver, a lawn service professional, a

retail specialist, and a writer, this book is immensely practical, possesses theological depth, and is a delight to read. The threefold structure, tracing "God's Plan for Work", "Our Problems with Work", and "The Gospel and Work" is elegant and accessible, and gives instruction concerning work's original intent, the impact of sin upon our work, and the redemption that is offered in Christ. Tim Keller, in both his speaking and writing ministry, is a true gift to the Christian world. While a lengthy review could easily be written, these brief words will suffice: you will seldom find a book that in its simplicity and clarity provides Christians with a helpful framework for understanding and undertaking work, to the glory of God.

Read this book with a group of 3 friends with the hope that we would be better at sharing our faith with our colleagues. Turns out we not only got that covered, but we also learned a lot more about loving God and loving people. Highly recommended. Definitely changed me.

As automation and other structural aspects of our economics and technology change the nature of work, Keller re-focuses us on the importance of work to God's Edenic plan for human flourishing and reflects on what the means in the light of our fallen human nature, the redemption of the Church by Christ, as well as the dominant paradigm of radical individualism in our society. Here, work is not a necessary evil or auxiliary to our "spiritual life" but a strong component of God's call to us.

Discussions of the theology of work abound. Keller's genius is to draw inspiration from 20th century English catholic spirituality, thorough exegesis of relevant Scripture (particularly Genesis and Ecclesiastes), a reclamation of the rethink of "vocation" at the time of the Reformation (particularly the contribution of work in the worldly kingdom to God's providence), and his own experience as pastor to a strongly "cultural creative" population in New York City. What Keller writes can preach almost anywhere. Nevertheless, the example his church has set in bringing workers from similar fields together to discern how they may further God's providence and share Christ's love to transform their world of work, should be your motivation for reading Keller's theological-philosophical account of what he has shepherded. Wisdom indeed is justified in her children. A thorough reader may observe a few minor oversimplifications of the history of philosophy and problematic exegesis. These do not materially detract from Keller's arguments.

Every Christian should read this book. We may live in a broken world, but how we choose to live our lives makes a powerful difference for everyone else around us, whether we are rich or poor, powerful or humble, strong in our faith or just exploring the possibilities. This book does not provide

a simple list of commands to obey, but instead considers the different approaches that Christians can take to the work they do. It is, in effect, a design template and a toolbox that you can use to reconstruct your life. You can work with God to fill in the details of the design as they apply to your situation, then use the tools to make your life a blessing that others will turn to for inspiration in their own times of need.

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