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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**who search the Scripture  
so as to walk in the grace  
and truth of Christ Jesus.**

# *Vocation (calling)?*

## *Roman Catholicism vs. Reformers*

Clergy class  
(Religious orders)

Laity class

*“the priesthood  
of all believers”*

**The Reformed notion of sacred vocation grew out of a reaction to the spiritual class system in the Roman Catholic church.**



## ***Three cautions with respect to vocational calling?***

- 1. The notion of secular “sacred” vocation is hard to find in the Bible.**
- 2. The notion of secular “sacred” vocation tends to put the emphasis on vocation rather than why and how the work is carried out.**
- 3. Most people in the world have little choice about their vocational work but real choice as to why and how they do their job.**



# Mary vs. Martha

**Luke 10:38-42**

**Picture Mary  
in the  
kitchen?**









***The problem is not work but  
rather how we view work.***

***We must learn to bring the  
Sabbath to our work.***

***We do this by not worshiping  
our work but worshiping God  
in it.***

***We cannot let work take a  
Messianic role in our lives.***

# The parable of the talents

*Matthew 25:14-30*

1. We are expected to use resources to make a profit.
2. The person who is not an aggressive investor loses what he tries to protect.
3. The person with the power to invest is the servant-steward of another's stuff.
4. What does God expect us to produce?



# The door to understanding our work rests with understanding our identity.

*Genesis 1:27*

“God created man in His own image”

We are created to display the image of God in the earth.



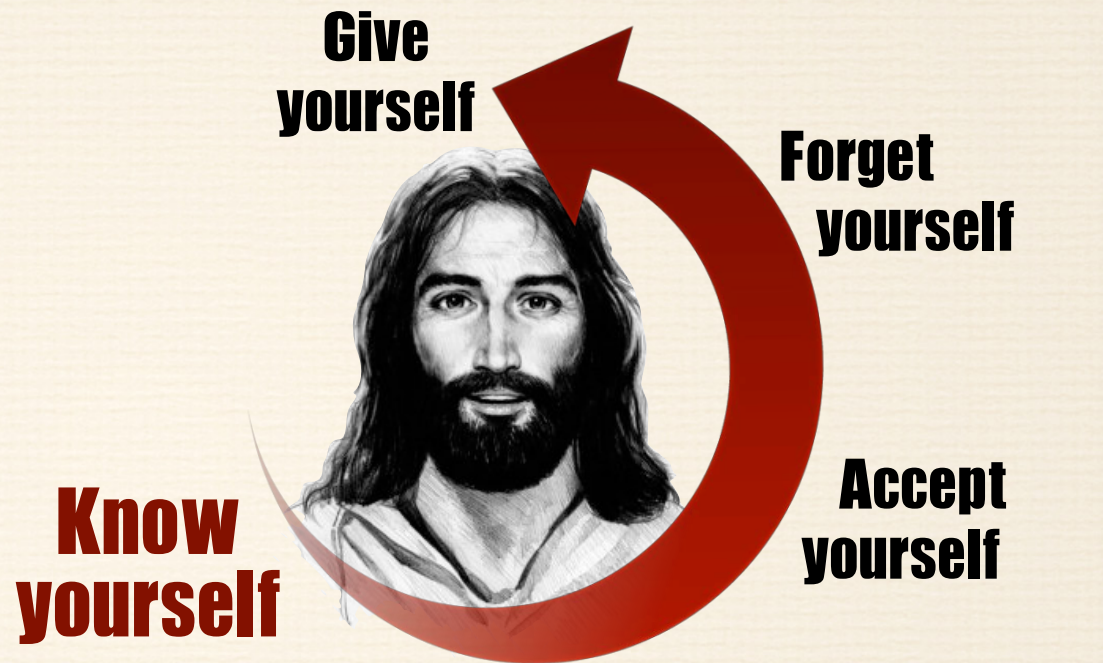


# The door to understanding our work is related to our union with Christ.

*Colossians 1:15*

“He is the image of the invisible God”

Christ is the model of true humanity.



Our calling is most simply to let the image of God in Christ fill us.



# The door to understanding our work is related to our union with Christ.

*Colossians 1:15*

“He is the image of the invisible God”

**Christ is the model of true humanity.**



**Christian baptism is our union with Christ as God's image.**



***So what does God expect  
of us in this life?***

**We are to be true to  
ourselves as humans  
bearing God's image  
in the world.**

# ***Biblical Mandates define our work***

## **Culture managing**

✓ **Care-taking** *We are stewards of the earth.*

✓ **Care-giving** *We are our brother's keeper.*

## **Covenant keeping**

✓ **A Community to show**  
*We are to build the Body of Christ.*

✓ **A Story to tell**  
*We are to spread the Gospel.*

# **Character building**

*We bear the image of God.*



## *Care-taking*

- ✓ **This mandate focuses on our responsibility to nature.**
- ✓ **It views the creation as existing for the support of human life (not vice versa).**
- ✓ **The mandate is to cultivate, conserve, and consume (but not to worship or abuse) nature.**



## *Genesis 1*

“<sup>27</sup> God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and **fill** the earth, and **subdue** it; and **rule over** the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” <sup>29</sup> Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; **it shall be food for you;**”

## *Genesis 2:15*

“Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to **cultivate** it and **keep** it.”



## *Care-taking (implications)*

- ✓ **Humans are not intruders in nature.**
- ✓ **Do not worship nature or abuse it.**
- ✓ **Do not be afraid to harness and harvest natural resources.**
- ✓ **The natural world is very durable but also merciless when disrespected.**
- ✓ **Animal life was to be respected but also used for food, sacrifice, etc.**



*Proverbs 12:10*

“A righteous man has **regard for the life of his animal,**”

*Luke 12:6*

“Are not five sparrows sold for two cents? Yet **not one of them is forgotten** before God.”

*Exodus 23:11-12*

A Sabbath rest was **extended to animals** and every seventh year the land was to “**rest and lie fallow.**”

*Jonah 4:11*

“Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, **as well as many animals?**”



## *Care-giving*

- ✓ **This mandate focuses on our responsibility to other humans.**
- ✓ **Humans are social beings.**
- ✓ **This mandate has to do with social responsibilities and expectations.**  
*(Human rights, civil government & discourse, biological family, etc.)*
- ✓ **Social justice (care for the poor and powerless) is a major theme in Scripture.**



### *Genesis 4*

“<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know. **Am I my brother’s keeper?**” <sup>10</sup> He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground.”

### *Galatians 6:10*

“So then, while we have opportunity, let us **do good to all people**, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”



## *Care-giving (implications)*

- ✓ **Healthy families and communities are vital to the general welfare of all.**
- ✓ **We are to care for others without carrying others or seeing them as the source of our life.**
- ✓ **Our true strength is measured by our cooperation, and compassion more than our competition.**



# *Covenant keeping*

- ✓ This mandate focuses on our responsibility to be a light to the world as God's people.
- ✓ Our baptism initiates our covenant participation with Christ.
- ✓ The Lord's table renews our covenant promise.

## *1 Peter 2*

“<sup>9</sup> But you are a **chosen race**, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, a **people for God's own possession**, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> for you once were not a people, but now you are **the people of God**; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”



# ***Covenant Keeping***

## ***(implications)***

- ✓ **We are Christ's representative ambassadors in this life.**
- ✓ **We are stewards of the Gospel (the message of hope) to our world.**
- ✓ **Our agenda as God's people is focused on the story we share and the community we show.**



# *Character Building*

- ✓ **This mandate focuses on the responsibility of God's people to develop and demonstrate the character of God.**
- ✓ **It is the major emphasis of the Biblical call on God's people.**

*1 Peter 1:16*

“You shall be holy,  
for I am holy.”



**Godly character is**

***The heart of Christ  
reproduced in the believer  
by the indwelling Spirit  
in obedient response  
to God's Word.***



# **The Bible**

## **“teaches to the test.”**



**It emphasizes what is most important  
- what we really need to know.**



# What is God's stuff?

- 1. Culture managing**  
(care-taking and care-giving)
- 2. Covenant keeping.**  
(show and tell)
- 3. Character building.**





**Enya**

“You can not  
change what’s  
over but only  
where you go.”

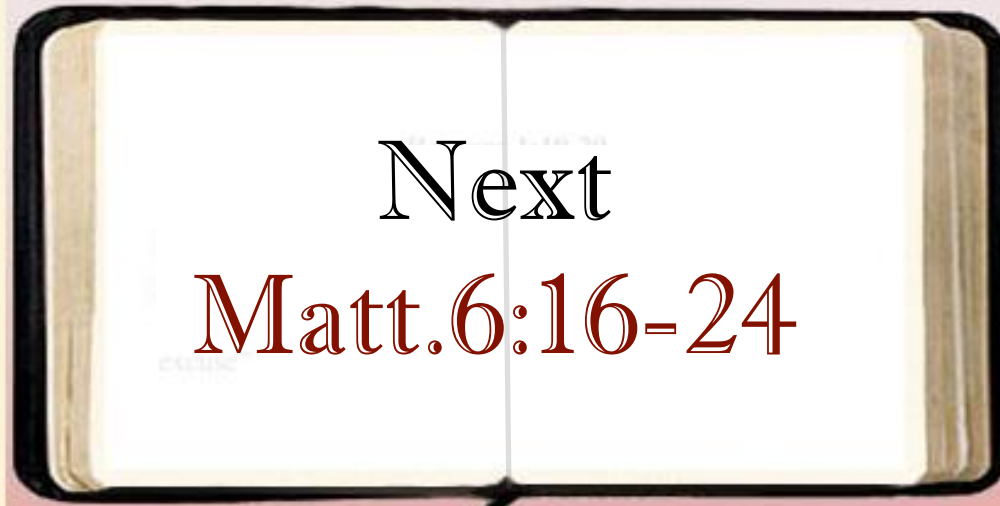
**Pilgrim**





# APT TO TEACH DIDAKTIKON

*A bishop then must be ... apt to teach 1 Timothy 3:2*

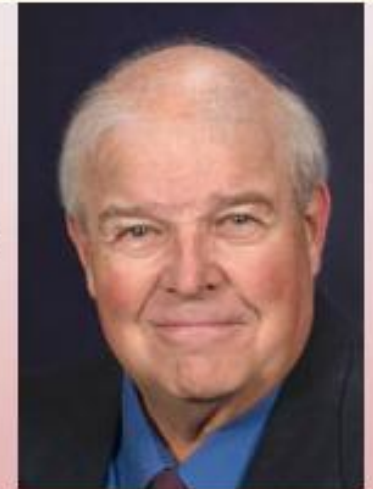


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## Welcome to my site

This is a work in process. I am frequently updating content as I gain more or better understanding. I encourage you to return often and to share your insights and ask questions.

Jim Abrahamson ThM  
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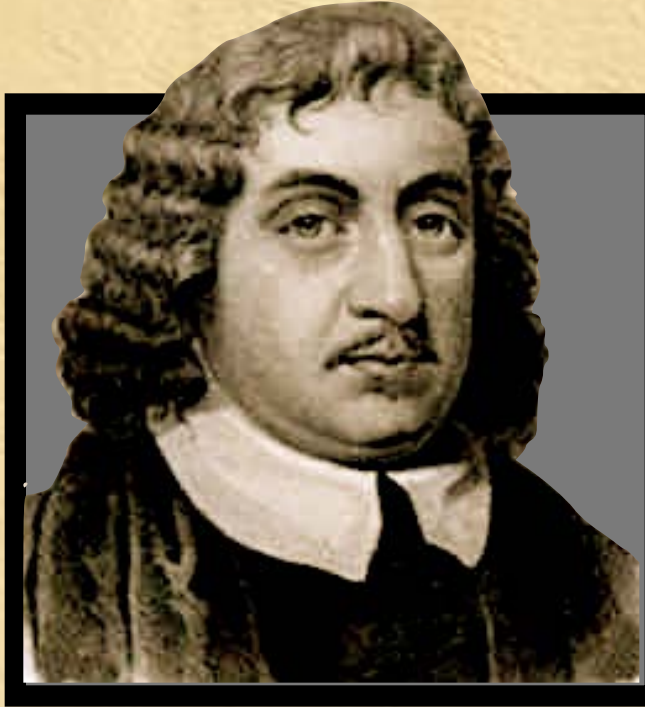
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# Managing the Kitchen's Heat









“All things are  
difficult before  
they are easy.”

**Thomas Fuller**



## *Ephesians 4*

11 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. . . . 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”



# *The Great Commission*

- ✓ **This mandate focuses on human responsibility to make disciples.**
- ✓ **This is a major part of the Covenant mandate and a big emphasis in Scripture.**
- ✓ **World evangelism is the first step in the process but not the end or focus of it.**



# ***Great Commission***

## ***(implications)***

- ✓ **We have a story to share - the Gospel.**
- ✓ **We are not all evangelists but we are witnesses to the living Christ in what we do and say.**
- ✓ **The world's hope rests with us as we show and tell the good news.**



# *God's Community*

- ✓ **This mandate focuses on the responsibility of God's people to use their unique abilities to serve God's purposes as part of Christ's Body.**
- ✓ **Key aspects of this mandate are focus, boundaries, assertiveness, and coordination.**
- ✓ **The proper use of gifts demands a proper view of and commitment to a spiritual community.**



# ***Community*** ***(implications)***

- ✓ **Christians are called to a holy team - The Body of Christ.**
- ✓ **We need each other in order to grow, prosper, & minister.**
- ✓ **Like parts of the biological body we have special functions that work in coordination with other parts.**
- ✓ **Learn to get along, love, appreciate.**



## *1 Corinthians 12:4-6*

“Now there are varieties of **gifts**, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of **ministries**, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of **effects**, but the same God who works all things in all persons.”

<b>Motivations</b>	<b>Ministries</b>	<b>Manifestations</b>
<b>The Spirit given ability to edify the church</b>	<b>The office or position from which a gift is exercised</b>	<b>The result of the gifts's use in the life of the church</b>
<b>Given at the moment of salvation</b>	<b>Given at the time of ordination</b>	<b>Given when the Holy Spirit works</b>
<b>teaching</b>	<b>pastor, elder, deacon, parent, group leader, missionary, etc.</b>	<b>healing, evangelism, prophecy, mercy, administration, etc.</b>