

Redeeming Productivity: Getting More Done for the Glory of God

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INTRODUCTION

In the introduction of *Redeeming Productivity: Getting More Done for the Glory of God*, Reagan Rose offers this statement that sets the tone for the entire book: “We all want to get more done. But for Christians, why we get more done is just as important as how” (p. 11). While there are numerous books available on personal productivity, few share the sound biblical foundation that permeates the pages of *Redeeming Productivity*. This book will appeal to a wide variety of business professionals, pastors, educators, and students studying economics, business, and theology. Rose offers five pillars of productivity followed by five associated practices for each pillar.

PILLAR 1—YOU BELONG TO GOD

Pillar 1 begins by shifting the reader’s paradigm from a me-centered view of personal productivity to a God-centered approach. Productivity should not be used for personal gain but something that reorients individuals to the Creator. “The world says you belong to yourself, but the Bible says you belong to God” (p. 19). Putting this pillar into practice takes discipline, and Rose advocates setting a morning routine. “A well-crafted, Christ-first morning routine is the best way I’ve found to begin a productive day” (p. 27). Several practical activities are offered so readers have concrete ways of achieving pillar 1.

PILLAR 2—YOU EXIST TO GLORIFY GOD

Glorifying God is the true purpose of human productivity, and that truth lies at the core of pillar 2. Rose warns readers to only follow Christian guidance

when it comes to taking advice from productivity experts. “If your favorite self-development guru is not a believer in Jesus Christ, then he or she does not share the same ultimate life goal as you” (p. 43). Scripture is clear that the Christian’s ultimate goal is to glorify God, and numerous Bible verses are offered to make the point. The practice offered in *Redeeming Productivity* to achieve pillar 2 is organization. “We are drawn to orderliness because God is a God of order, and we are created in His image” (p. 56). Practical suggestions provided include organizing the bedroom, the morning routine space, and the work area.

PILLAR 3—YOU WERE SAVED TO BEAR FRUIT FOR GOD

Christians should care about the means and the ends when it comes to productivity. Pillar 3 discusses the importance of the ends—bearing fruit but doing it in a God-honoring way. “God will judge your productivity not just by the what but also by the why and how” (p. 65). Rose makes the point that much of the study of productivity today stems from scientific management and the Industrial Revolution, but the biblical intent is to focus on bearing fruit for the kingdom of God. The practice to achieve pillar 3 is following through on commitments. Focus on completing tasks, not just starting them. Task management processes are provided that help the reader to complete what they start. At this point in the book, the task management systems and processes might bog down certain readers. While some might appreciate the depth and detail provided, it made this section more cumbersome than other parts of the book.

PILLAR 4—YOU ARE UNIQUELY GIFTED BY GOD

Rose states that Christians have an unfair productivity advantage when compared to non-Christians—spiritual gifts. “Every individual believer has been uniquely gifted by God to be productive in a particular way” (p. 103). One problem is that many believers do not know what their gifts are. Once gifts are identified, they should be put into practice to experience the fullness of productivity. “Finally, you should proactively seek opportunities to use your gifts. If you have a gifting, don’t wait for someone to come ask you” (p. 107). The practice for pillar 4 is goal setting. Numerous tools are provided for setting achievable goals that maximize spiritual gifts. One thing that stands out in this chapter is the emphasis on accountability. It is suggested that readers should find an accountability partner in the local church who can spur growth in spiritual giftedness.

PILLAR 5—YOU WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT TO GOD

Pillar 5 offers a reminder to the reader that all believers will give an account to God for what was done in this life. This reminder is a great motivator for personal productivity. “If we want to redeem productivity, we must understand that someday we will give an account for our lives to God” (p. 125). Rose asserts that most books on productivity focus on building wealth or acquiring financial prosperity as the main motivator. Christians have a higher calling and greater accountability. “Money is assumed to be the obvious incentive for being productive. But this motivation presents a problem for Christians because Scriptures warn us that the love of money is dangerous” (p. 127). Another warning is issued for what seems to be an admirable reason for productivity—leaving a legacy. The problem is the legacy is me-centered instead of God-centered. “We are to do our work not for the praise of men, but for the praise of God” (p. 131). The practice presented to achieve pillar 5 is writing a “well done” vision statement. “We need a vision statement that will help us keep an eternal perspective on productivity, something less about what people will say about us and more about what Christ will say to us” (p. 143).

CONCLUSION

Redeeming Productivity: Getting More Done for the Glory of God is an excellent book for anyone interested in personal productivity. This book will apply to many, but it might be particularly helpful for students and professors in areas such as strategic management, operations management, entrepreneurship, and microeconomics. Reagan Rose does an outstanding job of explaining the importance of personal productivity from a biblical worldview. His approach of offering a pillar of productivity followed by practices for the pillar gives readers a tangible application for increasing their personal productivity. Anyone who wants to improve their productivity for the glory of God should read this book. It is a relatively easy read and offers a practical approach to biblical productivity.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dr. David Shankle serves as a professor and chair of Nontraditional Business Programs at LeTourneau University. He teaches business and economics courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. His research interests include the application of a biblical worldview to business and economic issues.