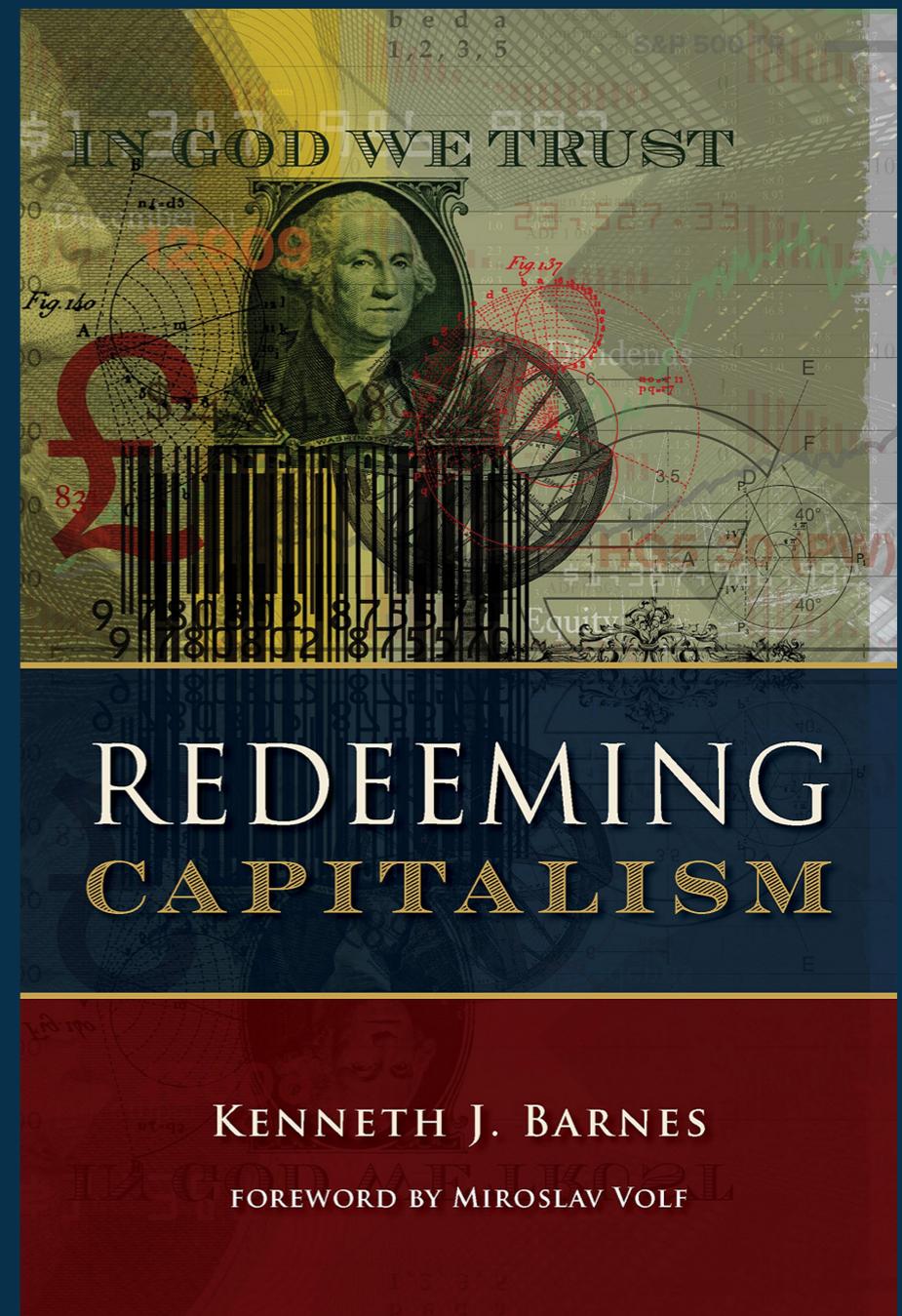
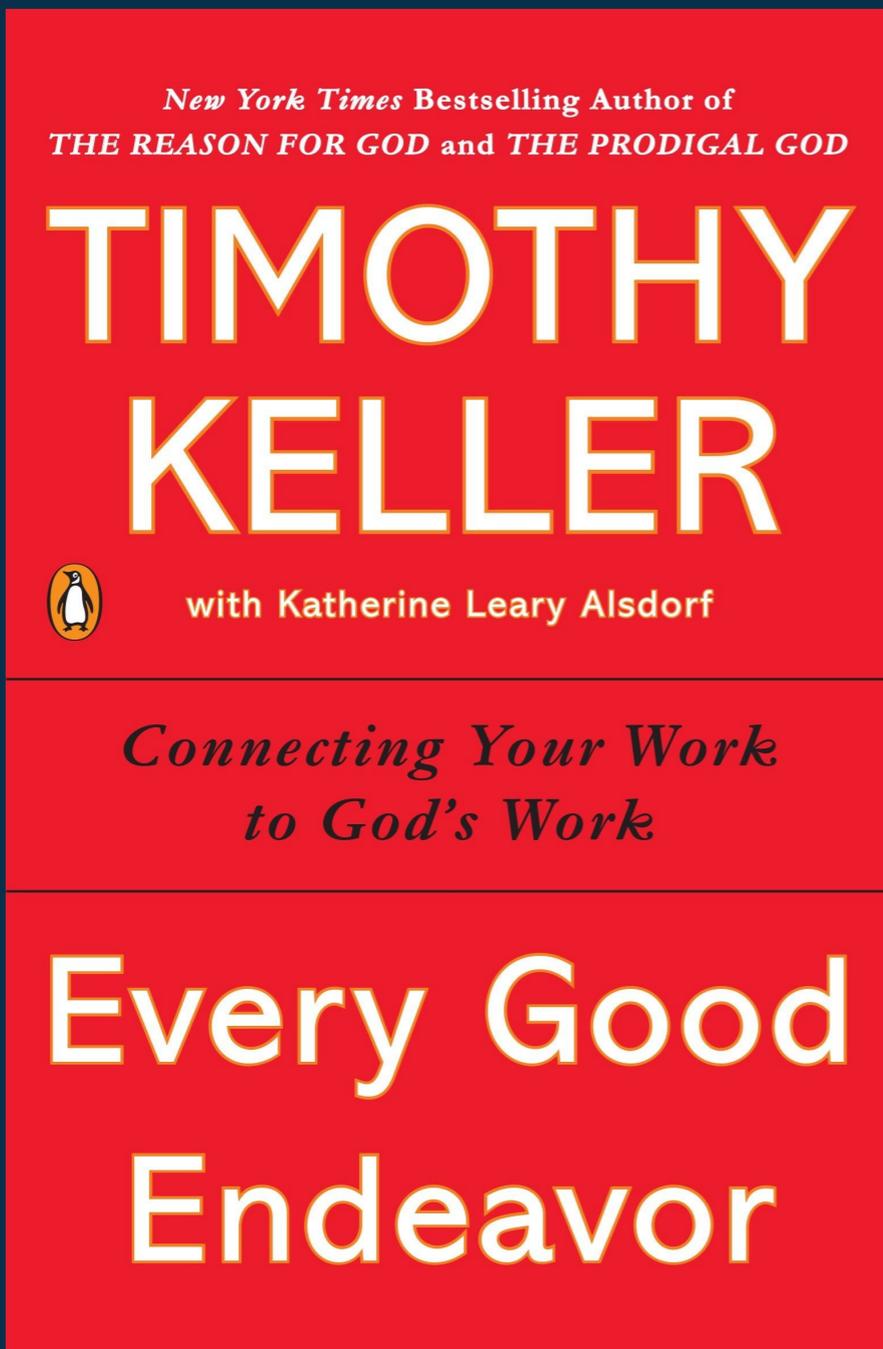




Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary  
**Ockenga Fellows Retreat 2.**

1 Corinthians 10:31 | A Theology of Work



*Every Good Endeavor:  
Connecting Your Work to God's  
Work* by Timothy Keller

*Redeeming Capitalism*  
by Kenneth J. Barnes

God created work to  
be good.

Genesis 1-2

# Genesis 2:3

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. (NIV®)

# Genesis 1:26b, 28b

“...[humankind] may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

“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.” (NIV®)

*“If God came into the world, what would he be like? For the ancient Greeks, he might have been a philosopher-king. The ancient Romans might have looked for a just and noble statesman. But how does the God of the Hebrews come into the world? As a carpenter.”*

**Phillip Jensen**

*(Every Good Endeavor, pg. 37)*

# Sacred

- Work & activity God cares about and calls people to do.
- missionaries, clergy, pastors, Bible teachers, worship leaders, church committees/leadership, soup kitchens, prayer, devotions, Sunday activities, etc.

# Sacred

- Work & activity God cares about and calls people to do.
- missionaries, clergy, pastors, Bible teachers, worship leaders, church committees/leadership, soup kitchens, prayer, devotions, Sunday activities, etc.

# Secular

- Work & activity God accepts but doesn't specifically call people to do.
- engineers, public educators, nurses, doctors, government officials, scientists, artists, economists, politicians, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, hobbies, sports, vacation, school, weekday activities, etc.

# It's all Sacred!

- God cares about and calls people to do all types of work and activity.
- engineers, missionaries, public educations, clergy, nurses, pastors, doctors, Bible teachers, government officials, worship leaders, scientists, artists, economists, church committees/leadership, politicians, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, soup kitchens, hobbies prayer, sports, devotions, vacation, school, Sunday and weekday activities, etc.

Work becomes difficult  
because of the fall.

Genesis 3

# Genesis 3:17b-18

“Cursed is the ground because of you;  
through painful toil you will eat food from it  
all the days of your life.

It will produce thorns and thistles for you,  
and you will eat the plants of the field. (NIV®)

# Genesis 3:19

By the sweat of your brow  
you will eat your food  
until you return to the ground,  
since from it you were taken;  
for dust you are  
and to dust you will return.” (NIV®)

We can do work for the  
wrong reason, our pride.

Genesis 11

# Genesis 11:3-4

They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar.

4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.” (NIV®)

*Now what I want to get clear is that Pride is essentially competitive—is competitive by its very nature. . . . Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man. We say people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good-looking but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better-looking than others.*

**C.S. Lewis**

*(Every Good Endeavor, pg. 112)*

*I should have said at the beginning that I don't like this notion of the "best-performing CEO in the world." That's an American perspective—you lionize individuals. I would say I'm leading a team that is collectively creating one of the world's best-performing companies. That's different from being the world's best performing CEO—it's a very big difference...*

**Lars Sørensen, former CEO of Danish drug maker Novo Nordisk**  
(*Redeeming Capitalism*, pg. 124)

We can do work for the  
best reason, God's glory.

2 Thess 3; 1 Cor 10

# 2 Thessalonians 3:10b

“The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.” (NIV®)

# 2 Thessalonians 3:10b

“The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.” (NIV®)

# 1 Corinthians 10:31

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. (NIV®)

The gospel transforms  
our work and gives it  
eternal worth.

The Big Gospel Story

# The Big Gospel Story

1. “The whole world is good.”

Timothy Keller  
(*Every Good Endeavor*, pg. 161-162)

# The Big Gospel Story

1. “The whole world is good.”
2. “The whole world is fallen.”

Timothy Keller  
(*Every Good Endeavor*, pg. 161-162)

# The Big Gospel Story

1. “The whole world is good.”
2. “The whole world is fallen.”
3. “The whole world is going to be redeemed.”

Timothy Keller  
*(Every Good Endeavor, pg. 161-162)*

*The gospel transforms  
our work and gives it  
eternal worth.*