

The Missing Curriculum

In 1721, Jonathan Edwards and his classmates at Yale had to pass an exam on “God-centered work.” Regrettably, the art of God-centered work (and the subject of “Theology of Work”) has virtually disappeared from the curriculum of Christian schools and churches. But this missing curriculum can be restored, using Dr. Christian Overman’s *God’s Pleasure At Work* and *The Difference One Life Can Make*.

There are two possible ways to go about this: a) use Dr. Overman’s books/DVDs as primary texts for a 1-quarter (or 1-semester) Economics, Bible or Occupational Education (“Essentials of Vocational Prep”) course at the 10th, 11th or 12th grade; or b) use selected chapters from these books for shorter units of study in existing courses (grade 7-12), such as history, social studies, Bible, worldview, philosophy, economics, leadership, business, and/or occupational education classes. See suggested units below.

Are we preparing our students to be transformational employees, artists, business leaders, entrepreneurs, civil servants and service providers of the 21st Century?

SUGGESTED UNITS OF STUDY	TEXT PAGES ¹	POSSIBLE CORE CLASSES
<i>Ridding our minds of secular dualism (the “sacred-secular split”)</i>	GPAW pp. 31-53 DVD #7-13	World History [Ancient Greece] Bible Worldview or Philosophy
<i>Viewing the arts and media through a biblically-shaped worldview</i>	GPAW pp. 55-61 DVD #14	Art Music Media
<i>The example of Dr. George Washington Carver, a man who integrated work with Christian faith</i>	GPAW pp. 63-73 DVD #15	Biology [Botany] U.S. History [Early 20 th Century] Occupational Education Leadership
<i>The example of Gary Starkweather, inventor of the laser printer</i>	GPAW pp. 75-80 DVD #16	Computer Skills [Technology] Occupational Education Physics [Optics/Lasers]
<i>How does “set your mind on things above,” and “love not the world” fit with the idea that we are to govern over the material world (Gen. 1:26-28)?</i>	GPAW pp. 81-86	Bible [Gen. 1; Col. 3; John 17]
<i>Analytical thinking skills: Identifying worldview beliefs that undergird films, TV, books and other influences</i>	GPAW pp. 87-96 DVD #17-18	Worldview or Philosophy Bible [Rom. 12:2; Col. 2:8; II Cor. 10:5] Social Studies

¹ GPAW = *God’s Pleasure At Work*; TDOLCM = *The Difference One Life Can Make*. Each text contains DVDs with 25 short discussion-prompting clips, averaging about 5 minutes each.

<i>Volunteerism</i>	GPAW pp. 97-103 DVD #19-21	Leadership Student Missions and Service
<i>The growth of Islam around the world through work</i>	GPAW pp. 105-108 DVD #22	Current Issues World History [Africa; Indonesia] Social Studies
<i>The role of business in spreading Christian influence and addressing poverty</i>	GPAW pp. 109-112 DVD #23	Business or Economics Occupational Education Social Studies
<i>Understanding the role of worldviews in shaping human values and behavior in the workplace and elsewhere</i>	GPAW pp. 15-30 TDOLCM pp. 15-18 TDOLCM pp. 26-33 DVD #1-6; 7-8	Worldview or Philosophy Social Studies Leadership Bible [Rom. 12:2; Col. 2:8; II Cor. 10:5]
<i>String theory and its relationship to the workplace</i>	TDOLCM pp. 21-22 DVD #6	Physics [Quantum mechanics]
<i>How the biblical worldview affects our view of reality as created, sustained, owned and governed by God</i>	TDOLCM pp. 19-23 DVD #5	Physics Biology Bible
<i>The biblical foundations of morality</i>	TDOLCM pp. 35-56 DVD #9-10	Bible [Ethics] Business [Ethics], or Economics
<i>Modernism and the influence of René Descartes on Western history and attitudes toward work</i>	TDOLCM pp. 37-45	World History [16 th – 17 th Century] Worldview or Philosophy
<i>Postmodernism and its affect upon workers</i>	TDOLCM pp. 47-60 DVD #10	World History [20 th Century] Social Studies Worldview or Philosophy
<i>How to be a positive spiritual influence on other people in the workplace (and elsewhere)</i>	TDOLCM pp. 60-84 DVD #11-15	Leadership Bible Student missions and service Occupational Education
<i>The example of Don Flow, CEO of Flow Automotive</i>	TDOLCM pp. 69-75 DVD #12	Occupational Education Leadership Business or Economics Bible
<i>The example of Jack vanHartesvelt, hotel investment manager</i>	TDOLCM pp. 85-87 DVD #16	Business [Ethics] or Economics Bible
<i>What is “the work of the Lord,” and what is “ministry?”</i>	TDOLCM pp. 89-93 DVD #17-19	Bible Business or Economics Occupational Education
<i>What is the Kingdom of God, and how does it relate to work?</i>	TDOLCM pp. 95-100 DVD #21-22	Bible
<i>How does the biblical worldview affect our view of work and our response to the challenges thereof?</i>	TDOLCM pp. 101-108 DVD #23	Bible Business or Economics Leadership Worldview or Philosophy
<i>The vital importance of friends and healthy relationships at work</i>	TDOLCM pp. 109-113 DVD #24	Bible Leadership

See *The Missing Curriculum*: http://www.biblicalworldview.com/The_Missing_Curriculum_Article_Reprintable.pdf

For more information about the texts [*God’s Pleasure At Work*, and *The Difference One Life Can Make*], or to purchase these books/DVDs, go to <http://www.biblicalworldview.com/Godspleasure.html>



www.godspleasureatwork.blogspot.com