



Productivity is not the purpose of your life. Glorifying God is.

But I agree with Tim Challies' definition of productivity for the Christian: "Productivity is effectively stewarding my gifts, talents, time, energy, and enthusiasm for the good of others and the glory of God."

For that reason, a Christian wanting to maximize their efforts at glorifying God will be conscious of not wasting any opportunities to do so. This is what Paul means when he says in Ephesians 5:16 to "make the best use of time" or to "redeem the time" that we are given on this earth. Therefore, for the Christian, it is very important that we do not waste our time but that we use it productively, maximizing our opportunities to glorify God in whatever we do: our work, our leisure, our parenting, our hobbies...anything we use our time for.

This is why *Do More Better: A Practical Guide to Productivity* has become one of my favorite and most-recommended books over the last decade since it was published. It is incredibly practical. By adopting these tools, the stated goal of the author "to improve [my] life" was accomplished. I have recommended this book to dozens of people in the midst of their busyness, and I have consistently seen it pay incredible dividends in their ability to juggle the busyness of family,

shepherding their heart, serving in the church, school, work, exercise, projects, hobbies, and more.

I have managed my own productivity in a way very close to what Challies lays out for the last 10 years. I am grateful for the increased productivity that allows me to serve as a pastor, nurse anesthetologist, husband, and dad. I am excited for more people in our church to take a month to read and then thoughtfully implement the practical content of the book.

Challies brings together many of the world's best productivity tools and frameworks in a readable and accessible short book. I have benefited from many non-Christian productivity books (such as *Getting Things Done* by David Allen or *Atomic Habits* by James Clear). But these books and authors ultimately do not have the God-glorifying aims of a Christian as the target, and neither do they recognize the problem of laziness as sin. Yet these frameworks and the tools they recommend (e.g. OmniFocus, Todoist, Reminders, etc.) can and should be used by the Christian to increase our productivity.

The book begins by laying out the theology of productivity and then the second half is nearly totally practical, helping you implement the nitty-gritty improving your productivity.

I truly believe that there isn't a person in the church who would not benefit from considering well and then implementing this book. Don't just read it, but plan to actually take the time to implement what he lays out. Some of the tools and tech is 10 years old, but still very applicable. If you need help or have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at jacob@gbcaz.org.

Your pastor, *Jacob Hantla*

Suggested One-Month Reading Plan

Week 1: Jan 5-11

Introduction (3 pages)

1. Know Your Purpose (5 pages)
2. Answer Your Call (8 pages)
3. Define Your Responsibilities (7 pages)

Week 2: Jan 12-18

4. State Your Mission (10 pages)
5. Select Your Tools (7 pages)
6. Collect Your Tasks (8 pages)
7. Plan Your Calendar (6 pages)

Week 3: Jan 19-25

8. Gather Your Information (12 pages)
9. Live the System (18 pages)

Week 4: Jan 26-Feb 1

10. Maintain It Consistently (12 pages)
- Bonus and live it out.