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Do More Better: A Practical Guide To Productivity



Synopsis

Don't try to do it all: Do more good. Better I am no productivity guru. I am a writer, a church leader, a husband, and a father with many responsibilities and with new tasks coming at me all the time. I wrote this short, fast-paced, practical guide to productivity to share what I have learned about getting things done in today's digital world. Whether you are a student or a professional, a work-from-home dad or a stay-at-home mom, it will help you learn to structure your life to do the most good to the glory of God. In Do More Better, you will learn: Common obstacles to productivity / The great purpose behind productivity / 3 essential tools for getting things done / The power of daily and weekly routines / And much more, including bonus material on taming your email and 20 tips I have learned along the way. It really is possible to live a calm and orderly life, sure of your responsibilities and confident in your progress. You can do more better. And I would love to help you get there. -Tim Challies

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Customer Reviews

Here's a lofty claim: "I believe this book can improve your life." • This is a claim we've all heard before. Infomercials, hucksters, and television preachers make similar claims. The net result is generally less than satisfying. The consumer usually walks away from such a claim with a lighter wallet, a bruised ego, and more skepticism to boot. Tim Challies is hedging his bets in his new book, Do More Better: A Practical Guide to Productivity. He believes that lives will be changed if readers will invest a bit of time in his book. Do More Better (DMB) is a fitting title as the author sets out to help readers lead more productive lives. But DMB should not be confused with the typical self-help

books that saturate most book stores. It should not even be compared to some of the most popular books on the discipline of productivity. Works like *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen Covey, *What's Best Next* by Matthew Perman, or *Getting Things Done* by David Allen made their respective contributions in the field of productivity. But DMB truly stands alone in a sea of books that promise productivity. The author argues that our lives must begin with a solid foundation. Ultimately, this foundation must rest on a commitment to glorify God and enjoy him forever. Glorifying God involves doing good works and making God look good. In typical Reformation fashion, the author reminds readers that good works are only possible because of Christ's completed work on the cross. So the author encourages readers to establish productivity on the solid rock of the gospel. Indeed, this is the highest form of productivity, namely, a life that glorifies God by doing good to others. • This lofty aim is what sets DMB apart from other books on productivity.

"I believe this book can improve your life," writes Tim Challies at the start of his new book *Do More Better: A Practical Guide to Productivity*. Challies wants to help us get things done, to be more productive at what really matters. Challies is well suited to write a book on productivity. He's one of the most productive guys I know, and he's also a good writer. Still, I wondered if we needed another book on productivity, especially with other great books in print. Challies begins *Do More Better* by laying a theological foundation for productivity. This is essential, he argues, because "productivity's true productivity" will never be better or stronger than the foundation you build it upon." He then offers a great definition of productivity: "effectively stewarding my gifts, talents, time, energy, and enthusiasm for the good of others and the glory of God." He then describes the three enemies of productivity: laziness, busyness, and external challenges ("thorns and thistles"). It's helpful to understand these, because "the absence of productivity or the presence of woefully diminished productivity is first a theological problem. It is a failure to understand or apply the truths God reveals in the Bible." While it's important to understand the theology of productivity, we also need practical help. Challies delivers. He helps us define our responsibilities, state our mission, and use three essential tools for getting things done. He also tells us how to maintain the system and handle email. Where some books get bogged down, *Do More Better* keeps things simple and practical. He includes some tips I hadn't read before, and these alone made the book worthwhile. Reading this book took well under an hour.

Maybe you're like me, and you're one of those people who seems to do a lot. Like a lot a lot.

Like, you don't know you're doing too much until you suddenly realize you're doing too much a lot. You've got a system to keep yourself organized (kinda sorta maybe). You get what you need to done, but if you're being honest, you know you're not as efficient as you could be. You could be doing better a lot better. So you've read the books on productivity. You know about the goal of inbox zero, if only because you know people obsessed with it. You know there are task management tools. You may even have accounts with some of them that you've not accessed in several months (ahem). But if you're honest, most of the advice you've been given or read seems to make something that should be relatively simple extremely complicated. And simplicity is what Tim Challies brings to the discussion in his first book in far too long, *Do More Better: A Practical Guide to Productivity*. This short book offers a look beyond the standard "do more" conversation, looking at the real reason why we should care about our productivity, as well as showing readers what the author's own system looks like in practice. *Do More Better*, at its heart, is about reminding us that productivity begins with recognizing our purpose: "to glorify God by doing good to others" (17). In light of this, we must define our responsibilities, state our mission, and fight our productivity thieves that threaten to get in the way. What I love about Challies' description of our purpose is that it connects productivity to every aspect of our lives. It's something in which we should seek to grow because we seek to honor Christ with our lives.

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