

When I was in college we got a new president who within a few years changed what was a good Christian college into one which had no interest in the gospel, But he had been a teacher in a theological seminary and he knew all the lingo. When he talked with me and I spoke of how the Lord said, Go into all the world and preach the gospel, he said, Yes, there are many ways of preaching the Gospel. He said, When I get people to give money to plant trees on the campus of Occidental, that's preaching the gospel!

That struck me as nonsense then, and still more so when I read this book on the Christian and culture.

A little later, those who hold that view found a Scripture verse they thought gave them support, so for the last 20 years or so many have talked about the "cultural mandate," because the Lord told Adam to multiply and replenish(fill up) the earth and subdue it." And that one Heb. word "subdue it" which means "make the earth produce that which is necessary for your livelihood", some build a whole theory of the Christian's primary duty meaning to develop this world in every stage of life and culture it can.

The Christian's primary duty is to grow in grace and to teach others to reach others for the Lord. That is what God leaves us here for . I doubt if you will find any books written over 30 years ago --any commentary anywhere which will say that there is a cultural mandate there in Gen. 1. It is a new idea somebody thought up. It's an idea to for Christians to escape their primary duty, and to think other things are equal before God.

Of course other things have their place. Paul worked in order to support himself. God calls us to earn a livelihood. He may choose to provide a livelihood through other Christians, or he may not so choose. He calls us to do what is necessary in taking care of the things of (this) life.

We had a missionary in South America. He said to me one day, It takes just half of our time just living out there. It seems to me half of his time was too much. He was trying to live with all the luxuries we take for granted here, and in order to get them there he had to spend half of his time working on them. I may have misjudged him, because he was a very good man, a godly man. He may simply have followed what was customary in his group. God does call us to live decent lives.

And God gives us the right to enjoy all the good things of this world. Culture has its place. The Christian has a right to enjoy the good things of culture, but he does not have a duty to advance culture. That is not a mandate. That is not a duty. But it is a privilege the Christian has to enjoy the good things of this life in their proper place.

But the primary objective of every Christian should be the same that was the objective of Paul, the objective of reaching souls for Christ, the objective of helping Christians