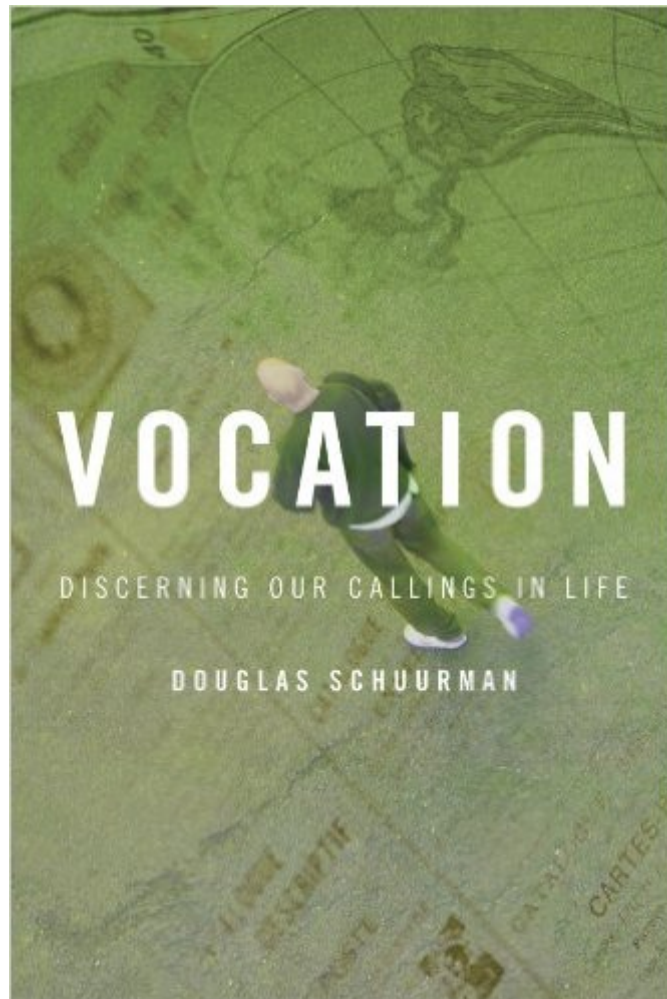


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# Vocation: Discerning Our Callings In Life



## Synopsis

The Protestant doctrine of vocation has had a profound influence on American culture, but in recent years central tenets of this doctrine have come under assault. *Vocation: Discerning Our Callings in Life* explores current responses to the classic view of vocation and offers a revised statement and application of this doctrine for contemporary North American Christians. According to Douglas Schuurman, many Christians today find it both strange and difficult to interpret their social, economic, political, and cultural lives as responses to God's calling. To renew this biblical perspective, Schuurman argues, Christians must recover the language, meaning, and reality of life as vocation, and his book helps do just that. Developed in dialogue with audiences as diverse as college students, industrial workers, business leaders, church leaders, and professional theologians and ethicists, the book examines the theological and ethical dimensions of vocation as these have been understood historically and in relation to our modern social setting.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I normally do not believe blurbs on the back of books, but this one lives up to its billing. Stephen J. Pope, of Boston College, says this book "is a model of how to do theological ethics in a way that is both rooted in tradition and highly creative. Schuurman has mastered this topic, and his book will no doubt be regarded as a major reference on this topic for years to come." Philosopher Lee Hardy says this book is "A wise, judicious, and compelling rearticulation of the concept of vocation as an integrated force in the Christian life (back cover)." Unlike other books, which restrict the idea of vocation to paid work or reduce it to "ten steps" for this or that form of success, this book presents

the concept of vocation in its richest sense. This book is "must reading" for anyone who wants to think, speak, or write about vocation. It would be a great text for college or seminary courses pertaining to theology or ethics, and also a fine resource for pastors and literate laypersons.

I've found many are confused by myths and misconceptions when it comes to a Biblical view of vocation. Douglas Schuurman has brought a light into the mist as he provides a wonderful explanation of the doctrine of vocation and how to live it out in the modern world. The book has three main outlined themes. First, all aspects of life are holy. Second, duties are to be governed by God's will. Third, officials are God's representatives. Drawing heavily on the writings of Luther and Calvin, he provides diverse views on the subject and articulates clear arguments for his conclusions. Vocation is the best resource I've read on the subject and I would highly recommend it to those considering the topic.

I value this book's broad overview of theological, philosophical, and sociological perspectives on vocation and work. Author makes an argument for the doctrine of vocation (based on Luther and Calvin) taking into consideration some critiques of that doctrine (J Elul, S Hauerwas, and Miroslav Volf) as well as different contemporary social and economic circumstances. Author makes good points and observations about the theological importance of vocation.

Have no doubt, this is a thick theological read. It is heavily based upon Calvin and Luther, with most illustrations taken from the Apostle Paul. There are a few underdeveloped illustrations related to contemporary context.

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