

Q & A



Worth Doing *Fallenness, Finitude, and Work in the Real World*

November 25, 2025 | \$25.99, 240 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0948-2

“Many publications affirm the value of work and the call to do good work. But we also urgently need a perspective that reminds us that most people just need to pay the bills. We need a compassionate recognition that, for many, work is a taskmaster. W. David Buschart and Ryan Tafilowski have done it—given us a more realistic and helpful way to think of work and vocation.”

—Gordon T. Smith, executive director of Christian Higher Education Canada

A Hopeful Invitation to Reimagine Faith and Work

What led to your interest in writing about a new vision of faith and work?

W. David Buschart: Over the past two decades or so, the faith and work movement has done much to elevate and honor work in explicitly Christian terms. This is good and important work that needed to be done. Along the way, however, the theology employed in the service of advancing work has been both distorted and incomplete. Creational finitude has been all but ignored, and the reality of fallenness has been both inadequately understood and inadequately emphasized. We are seeking to address these weaknesses in the theology of work.

Ryan Tafilowski: I worked for years in the faith and work space (both as the theologian-in-residence at the Denver Institute for Faith and Work and as a pastor in the local church, working with folks trying to navigate their careers), and consistently found that the dominant theology of work on offer in the evangelical faith and work space, which typically emphasizes agency and autonomy in work, did not resonate with many workers (particularly blue-collar and no-collar workers). The book aims to supply a theology of work capable of speaking to the experience of workers who do not always find a great deal of vocational fulfillment in their work.

What is your main thesis in *Worth Doing*?

Buschart: Theologies of work must more robustly grapple with the reality of creational finitude (finitude of space, time, and human capacities) and more robustly attend to the reality of fallenness, both individual and systemic.

Tafilowski: The book argues that, if the faith and work movement is going to gain any traction in offering a vision of work that resonates with workers who do not have great autonomy or perhaps fulfillment in their daily labor, it will have to take finitude and fallenness more seriously. To that end, we suggest that the Bible offers multiple theologies of work (including accounts where work has a purely instrumental value), but the faith and work movement has been preoccupied with two: the agency-dignity-power narrative of Genesis 1–2 and the perfection-of-human-culture narrative of Revelation 21–22. We argue that neither of those narratives is especially workable for people whose jobs don’t match the description of the cultural mandate in Genesis or the New Jerusalem in Revelation.

Who did you have in mind as you were writing this book?

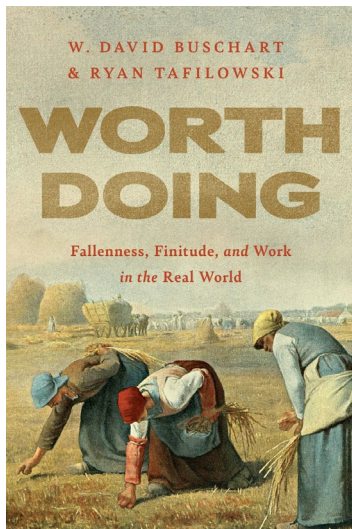
Buschart and Tafilowski: Leaders of and participants in faith and work endeavors; college and seminary students in courses related to faith and work, vocation, calling; and laypeople who are motivated to integrate Christian faith and their work.



Karin DeHaven, senior publicist
kdehaven@ivpress.com or ivpress.com/media



ivpress.com/media



Q & A



Worth Doing *Fallenness, Finitude, and Work in the Real World*

November 25, 2025 | \$25.99, 240 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0948-2

"Many publications affirm the value of work and the call to do good work. But we also urgently need a perspective that reminds us that most people just need to pay the bills. We need a compassionate recognition that, for many, work is a taskmaster. W. David Buschart and Ryan Tafilowski have done it—given us a more realistic and helpful way to think of work and vocation."

—**Gordon T. Smith**, executive director of Christian Higher Education Canada

What do you hope your book contributes to the study of faith and work?

Buschart:

- Identify finitude and fallenness as necessary components of the theology of work.
- Argue that creational finitude is not evil, not a product of the fall, and therefore is not something to be redeemed but rather a reality within which we must, and can, work.
- Clarify the depth and profundity of fallenness, not only individual but also corporate and systemic, and identify the implications for the theology of work.

Tafilowski:

- First, the book aims to recover creational finitude as a genuine good of God's design, including God's design for work; with this move, we seek to remind our audience that we as workers are finite, and that's a good thing (not a bad thing to be overcome).
- Second, we propose that the best place to situate a theology of work is in the doctrine of the fall, not primarily the doctrine of creation or in eschatology; this is because workers' experience reflects fallenness more obviously than it reflects Genesis 1–2.
- Third, we propose a theology of work in which the image of God is not identified with human capacities for achievement; instead, humans are accorded an inalienable dignity regardless of whether they ever "find their passion" or "pursue their vocation."



Karin DeHaven, senior publicist
kdehaven@ivpress.com or ivpress.com/media



ivpress.com/media



Worth Doing
Fallenness, Finitude, and Work in the Real World

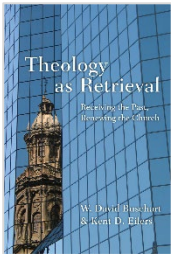
November 25, 2025 | \$25.99, 240 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0948-2

In *Worth Doing*, David Buschart and Ryan Tafilowski embrace the realities of limitations, challenging the myths of “You are what you do” and “Do what you love.” Instead, they propose a theology of work that affirms the goodness of human limits while addressing the realities of fallenness, offering hope for those who may not find deep fulfillment in their daily jobs.

Reimagine Your Theology of Faith and Work

W. David Buschart (PhD, Drew University) is professor of theology and historical studies at Denver Seminary. He is the author of *Exploring Protestant Traditions* and coauthor of *Theology as Retrieval*. He is a ruling elder and member of the theology committee of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

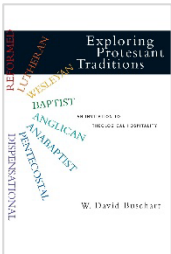
Also by W. David Buschart:



Theology as Retrieval: Receiving the Past, Renewing the Church

by W. David Buschart and Kent Eilers | April 15, 2015 | \$30.99, 319 pages, ebook | 978-0-8308-9816-9

Buschart and Eilers identify six critical areas—Scripture, theology, worship, spirituality, mission, and culture—where contemporary Christians are retrieving aspects of our Christian past for life and thought today. The result is a fascinating tour and wise reflection on how Christians might receive, employ, and transmit the treasures of their past.



Exploring Protestant Traditions: An Invitation to Theological Hospitality

by W. David Buschart | August 24, 2006 | \$43.99, 373 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-2832-6

W. David Buschart presents this richly informative field guide to eight prominent Protestant traditions. Clearly and evenhandedly, he traces the histories of each tradition, explains their interpretive approaches to Scripture, and identifies their salient beliefs. As a result, you will gain a sense of what it’s like to believe and worship in each tradition.



Karin DeHaven, senior publicist
kdehaven@ivpress.com or ivpress.com/media



BIO



Worth Doing

Fallenness, Finitude, and Work in the Real World

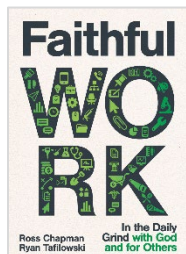
November 25, 2025 | \$25.99, 240 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0948-2

In *Worth Doing*, David Buschart and Ryan Tafilowski embrace the realities of limitations, challenging the myths of “You are what you do” and “Do what you love.” Instead, they propose a theology of work that affirms the goodness of human limits while addressing the realities of fallenness, offering hope for those who may not find deep fulfillment in their daily jobs.

Reimagine Your Theology of Faith and Work

Ryan Tafilowski (PhD, Edinburgh) is assistant professor of theology at Denver Seminary and lead pastor of Foothills Fellowship Church in Littleton, Colorado. He is the coauthor, with Ross Chapman, of *Faithful Work: In the Daily Grind with God and for Others*. He previously served as theologian-in-residence for the Denver Institute for Faith and Work.

Also by Ryan Tafilowski:



Faithful Work: In the Daily Grind with God and for Others

by Ross Chapman and Ryan Tafilowski

January 9, 2024 | \$15.99, 112 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0791-4

The gospel transforms our ordinary work into a sacred calling—to redeem souls, systems, and structures. This guide by Ross Chapman and Ryan Tafilowski invites you to reflect on the meaning and purpose of your life’s work, helping you transform your work into a way to love God, serve your neighbors, and bring hope to our culture.

Praise for *Faithful Work*:

“Readers will welcome the staunch assertion that faith is just as alive in the daily grind as it is in ministry work, because ‘our work . . . represents God in the world.’ This serviceable guide . . . succeeds in bridging the gap between the workplace and the alter.”

—**Publishers Weekly**, October 2023

“Your work needs a new story. This is the heart-arresting challenge Faithful Work compels us to consider. Drawing from the ancient wisdom of the biblical story, common cultural distortions and soul-suffocating clutter are carefully and gracefully swept away. A clarifying vision emerges, guiding us to embrace the life-giving rhythms of a seamless way of living into our daily work. Whether you enjoy your work or are struggling with it, this well-crafted and practical book will help you discover how faith shapes and brings meaning to your Monday world. I recommend it.”

—**Tom Nelson**, president of Made to Flourish and senior pastor of Christ Community Church, Kansas City



Karin DeHaven, senior publicist
kdehaven@ivpress.com or ivpress.com/media



ivpress.com/media