THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS OF INFLUENCE
(Colossians 3:23-24)

I. WHAT DO PEOPLE DO ALL DAY?
   A. What Do People Do All Day? By Richard Scarry (Random House, 1968)
   B. Message Series: 7 Mountains of Influence. Also referred to as the 7 pillars of culture or spheres of society: Religion, family, education, government, media, arts, & business.
   C. Several of the ways Christians have sought to live out their faith:

II. THE MONK – COMPLETE DETACHMENT FROM THE WORLD?
   A. If our world is a ship, abandon the sinking ship! Detach yourself completely from the greed, violence, murder, self-centeredness, anxiety that is so commonplace in the world. Weakness: this is not so easy to apply to our lives. There are brilliant lights in history who have done this when God called them to it, yet this is less than 1%.
   
   *I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. (John 17:15)*

   B. Jesus is Lord of all. Sacred/secular, spiritual/physical, church/society, holy/worldly.

   1. Diagram: How much time do we have?

   http://fundersandfounders.com/what-7-billion-world-population-does/

   *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,*  
   *knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*  
   *(Col. 3:23-24)*

   C. The heart-reality is that we are set apart to God, but we still live in the world. In fact, Jesus sends us into the world (John 20:21). The Biblical model is not to escape the world, but to become salt and light in the world, to act as a preservative and light-bearing agent in the world (Matt. 5:13-14), where it’s needed most: darkness.

III. CHRISTIANS CONTROLLING THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS?
   A. Some people have sought to only do explicitly Christian “work.”
1. In the OT, Israelites who were taken captive to Babylon from Israel. They were instructed to pray for the city and to put down roots, marry, have children, engage in agriculture and other long-term enterprise (Jer. 29:7)

B. Potentially unbalanced extremes: Theonomy (Mosaic law should be obeyed by modern societies), Dominionism (whether through political activism or other means, to have Christians governing non-Christians), Some applications and forms of 7M Mandate teaching, etc...

1. Jesus will come back to fully establish His Kingdom on the earth. Until then, we live in the tension. The wheat and the tares grow together. Jesus is bringing the sword, until then, it’s a time of God’s mercy and patience, so people can be saved, that none should perish.

C. Weakness: difficult to apply. This only applies to 1% of people at the very top and fails to give “ordinary” Christians in all walks of life a vision for their place in God’s plan.

IV. JESUS AS LORD OF ALL CREATION

A. When God created the world, He gave mankind the Creation Mandate (or Cultural Mandate), an assignment. They were to fill, subdue, and have dominion (or rule) over creation. God created Adam and Eve as His representatives to impact the world around them.

   

   Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Gen. 1:28)


1. Jesus died to redeem us, save us. Redeem us to do what? Save us from sin and death to do what? To fulfill God’s original plan.

B. The work that we are called to do (whether there is money exchanged or not) is in caring for God’s creation and for one another. Every person matters. There is no job that is insignificant if we are doing our part in fulfilling God’s Creation Mandate.

V. CONCLUSION & APPLICATION

Begin to think and pray about Q: How do I fulfill God’s creation mandate where I am?

Study, pursue, think, pray for wisdom on how God’s kingdom can be manifest in your sphere at this season of your life.