

A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

August 15, 2019

My dear Friends:

I was thrilled with last night's talk from our friend, Dr. Steven Garber. If you missed his talk, "Singing Songs the Whole World Can Hear," you can watch the video on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYC7Fbv1igY>. It was a fabulous blending of apologetics and theology, teaching us how to think about our lives in this world and in our place, Memphis.

I was a little concerned, though, that some might hear the word "vocation" and think something about "career." Undoubtedly, our careers are one part of our "vocation" or "calling." But over the past two Wednesday nights, I hope you are getting the sense that when we talk about calling or vocation, we are talking about more than what we do in the workplace. Rather, we are talking about how God calls us into his world through his general grace and the general operations of his Spirit to say the truest things and live in the most faithful way for the benefit of others.

This morning, I was thumbing through some writings from a Dutch theologian from a previous generation, Herman Bavinck. He observed that our working in this world is more than our career. It involves working in our yards, working at our art or music, working at straightening or decorating our homes, working at raising our children, working on our marriages. We are called to work, to tend to God's creation—and when we work in God's world, we become "co-workers with God," participating in the cultivation of his world for his glory.

That means we don't ever really "retire"—we may retire from our "careers," but we are still workers in God's world. And that means if we don't have a "career," we are still workers in God's world—indeed, stay-at-home mothers or empty-nesters are some of the hardest workers there are! And that means what we are talking about with Dr. Garber and all month long isn't simply for those who are in a "career"—it is for all of us, everyone who is breathing, everyone who professes to be a follower of Jesus.

And that means you should strongly consider coming to the seminar Friday night and Saturday morning with Dr. Garber. There is still time to register and we can take registrations at the door on Friday evening (5:30 p.m. for dinner; 6:30 p.m. for Dr. Garber's first talk). You won't regret the time spent thinking about how God is calling you into his world as a new person seeking his will so that a new Memphis might emerge.

In the grip of God's grace,

