

Forging A Head Bootcamp

November 3 - 5, 2006

**Man and His God...
God and His man**

**What Happens When
You Take God's Word at
Face Value?**

unless otherwise noted

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Psalm 128

**1 Blessed *is* every one who fears the LORD,
Who walks in His ways.**

2 When you eat the labor of your hands,
You *shall be* happy, and *it shall be* well with you.

3 Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine
In the very heart of your house,
Your children like olive plants
All around your table.

**4 Behold, thus shall the man be blessed
Who fears the LORD.**

5 The LORD bless you out of Zion,
And may you see the good of Jerusalem
All the days of your life.

6 Yes, may you see your children's children.
Peace *be* upon Israel!

Assertions



- The primary audience for this Psalm is men
 - V. 3 "Your wife..."
 - V. 4 "Thus shall the man be blessed..."
- As far as God's concerned
 - "Fearing the Lord"
 - "Walking in His Ways"
 - Go together

So What?



- In the beginning...
 - God was in charge and “Almighty”
 - God’s voice was the only one heard
 - Man did not exist
 - God designed man
- Has anything changed?
 - Man exists, has rebelled, and has supplied far more voices (reflecting rebellious designs)
 - Jesus has redeemed His creation...



Luke 12:1b-10 (1b-5)

... He began to say to His disciples first *of all*,
"Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is
hypocrisy. **2** "For there is nothing covered that will
not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known.
3 "Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark
will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken
in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the
housetops.
4 "And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of
those who kill the body, and after that have no more
that they can do. **5** "But I will show you whom you
should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has
power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!



Luke 12:1b-10 (6-10)

6 "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. **7** "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

8 "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. **9** "But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God. **10** "And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven.



What's the Point?

- The Pharisees were men who added their own ideas about how men were supposed to act...
 - And would push it to the point of death of others (even our Savior)
 - Don't fear them, or any other man!
- God knows every thought, word, and deed of "those people" and "you"
 - He's got you in His hands
 - He's still the Almighty, don't sweat man's ways
- Don't deny Him, fear Him
 - If you accept man's "design"
 - You are rejecting God's



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Walk in His Ways?

- How do we know His ways?
- Study His-story
 - Commands – do this, don't do that
 - Testimonies – Daniel, David, etc.
 - Statutes – the law with corresponding implications
- Recognize our source:
 - Jesus Christ
 - God's Word



2 Peter 1:2-4

Grace and peace be **multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3** as His divine power **has given to us all things that *pertain to life and godliness***, through the **knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, **having escaped the corruption *that is in the world through lust*.**



2 Timothy 10-17 (10-15)

10 But you have **carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith**, longsuffering, love, perseverance, **11** persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra-- what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. **12** Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. **13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned** and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, **15** and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

A blacksmith is shown working with a glowing red-hot piece of metal on an anvil. The blacksmith's hands are visible, holding a hammer and tongs. The background is dark, and the bright orange and red glow of the metal is the primary light source. The image is partially obscured by a dark red curved shape on the left side.

2 Timothy 10-17 (16-17)

16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be **complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**



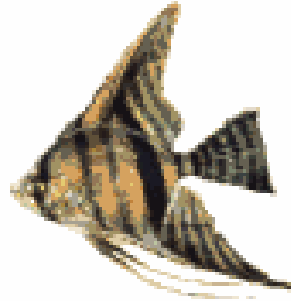
Two Questions

- What's wrong with that?
 - Usually used to justify actions
 - Or to make someone else look "judgmental"
- What do the Scriptures say?
 - Going back to the source to find truth
 - Danger? Reinventing the wheel?
 - Recognize we are (and have been) in a fallen world

*I may not have all the right answers,
But I'm confident I have the right question*

The Desert Island Test*

- Does a fish know he's wet?
- If you were stranded on a desert island with nothing but the Bible and you had to rebuild society what would it look like?



A blacksmith is shown working with glowing red metal in a forge. The scene is set in a workshop with various tools and equipment visible in the background. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the intense heat of the metal.

We Are Questioning the Culture

- Current social and cultural “rules” present us with a moral and ethical dilemma
- They require us to choose between several responsibilities we have.
- Maybe we need to break some of the “rules” to fulfill our responsibilities.



Here's the Problem: 3 Full-Time Responsibilities

- Provision (Work)
 - for Ourselves (1 Thes 4:11-12)
 - our Family (1 Tim 5:8)
 - and Others (Acts 20:34-35, James 1:27)
- Leading the Family
 - Training children (Deut 6:5-9, Eph 6:1-4)
 - Loving our wives (Eph 5:22-33, 1 Pet 3:7)
- Loving Others
 - Loving the lost (Matt 28:19-20, etc.)
 - Loving the saints (one another – Rom 12:10...)

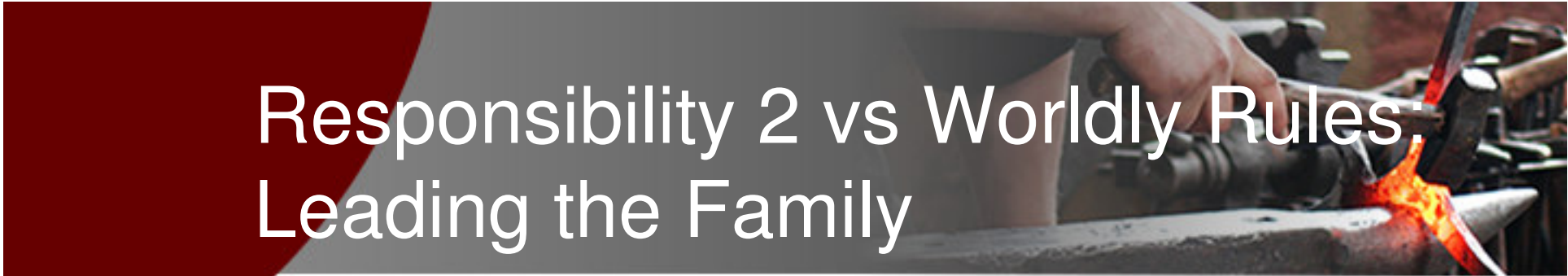
As unto the Lord (Col 3:23-24)

Responsibility 1 vs Worldly Rules: Provision (Work)



- Today's world highly values money, power and conspicuous consumption
 - We have both marriage partners working 40 to 70 hour weeks with never enough time together.
 - Add to this an increased focus on recreation ("toys") and entertainment (sports/fashion/sex)
 - Why do these things "fulfill" us **and** destroy us?
 - Aren't we supposed to be content with having our needs met?
 - Is achieving success/fulfillment as the world measures it pleasing to God?
 - What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world...?
 - What about the "dominion mandate"?
 - Who defines "wealth"?

Responsibility 2 vs Worldly Rules: Leading the Family



- Today's world applies great pressure to push our family responsibilities aside
 - Can we delegate our responsibility to train our children?
 - Are day care, public, or even private schools, acceptable substitutes for God's plan?
 - Whose lives are being spent before our children's eyes daily as models they emulate?
 - Should mommies raise our boys?
 - Can we set aside our responsibility to love our wives?
 - Marriages are pictures of Christ and the church
 - Does Christ only have time for an occasional cup of coffee while He runs the universe?

Responsibility 3 vs Worldly Rules: Loving Others



- Today's world applies great pressure to push our ministry responsibilities aside
 - Can we set aside our responsibility to witness to the lost?
 - If our beloved Lord Jesus died for our neighbors, must we not tell them?
 - Can we delegate our responsibility to love the saints?
 - Does hiring a pastor absolve us of the responsibility to build one another up?
 - How will we find time and opportunity to love one another?



So, How Do I Train My Children?

- **5** "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. **6** "And these words which I command you today **shall be in your heart.** **7** "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up... "**You shall fear the LORD your God** and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. **14** "You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you **15** '(for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth. (Deut 6:5-7, 13-15)
- Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Eph 6:4)

Counter-Culture



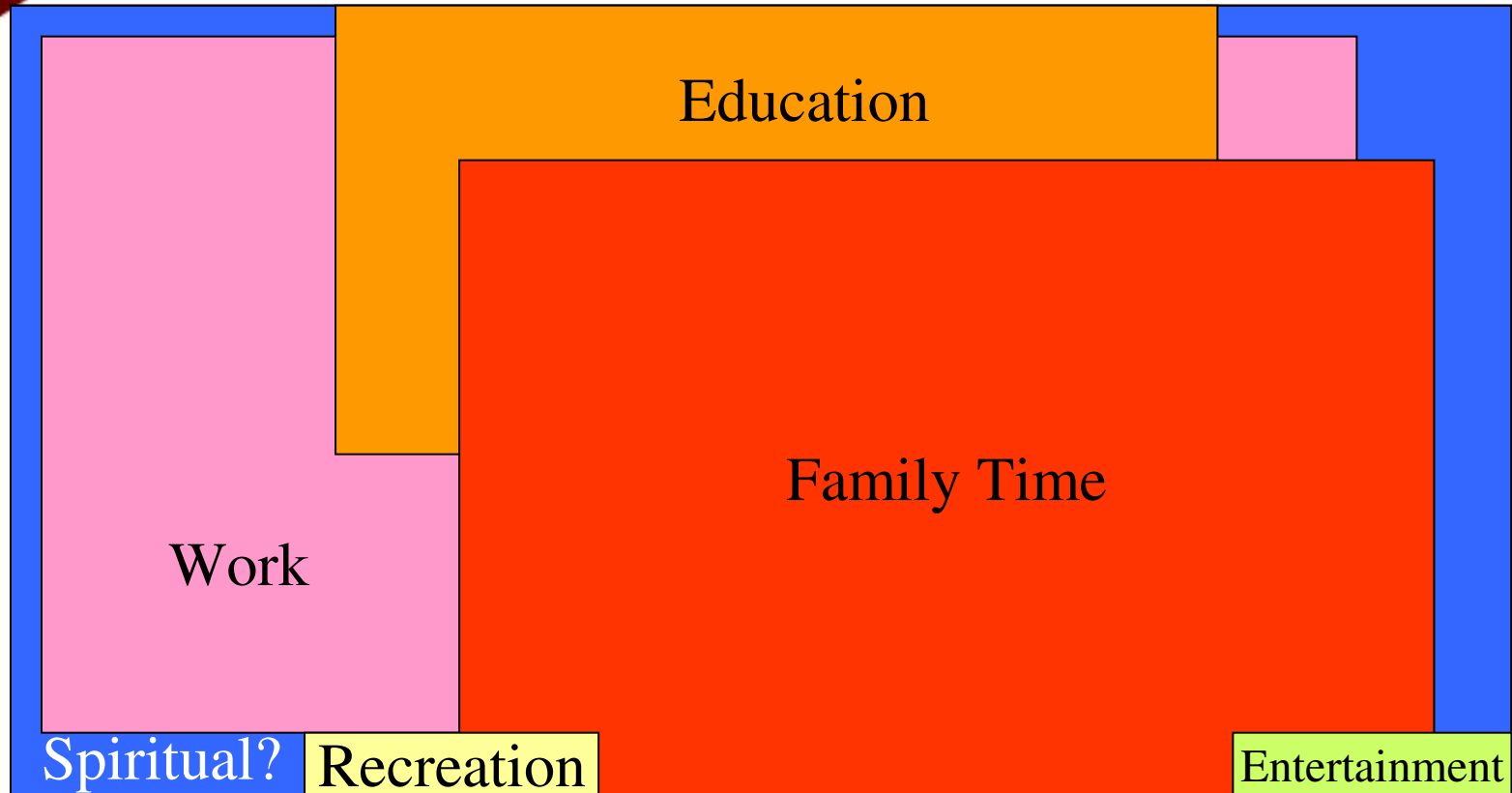
God's Word isn't invalidated by a culture that rejects it. God's people are (at least) less effective and (at most) dishonor God when they embrace the culture rather than His Word.

“Holystic”



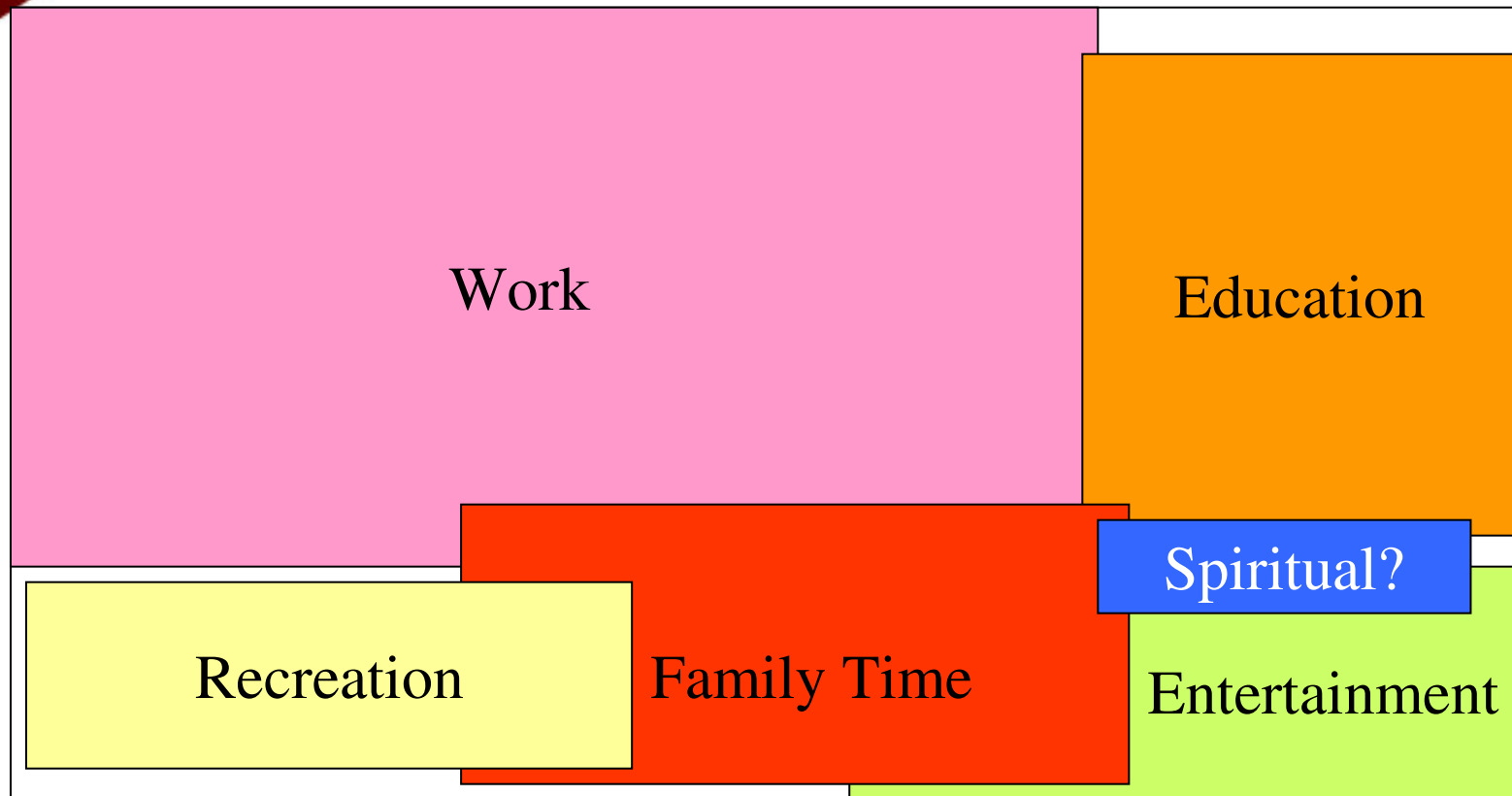
- Multiple full-time responsibilities
 - Work with your hands (1 Thes 4:11-12, Acts 20:34-35, Col 3:23-24)
 - Leading family (Deut 6:5-9, Eph 5:22-6:4)
 - One anothers (Acts 20:18-20, Rom 12:10, 13:8, 14:19, Gal 5:13, Eph 4:2, 32; Phil 2:3; Col 3:9,13,16; 1 Th 3:12, 4:9, 5:11-15...)
- How
 - Older & younger together, men train men, women train women (Titus 2)
 - As unto the Lord (Col 3:23)
 - “Christianity is not a plug-in, it’s an operating system” (Mark 12:28-31)

Old Testament Culture



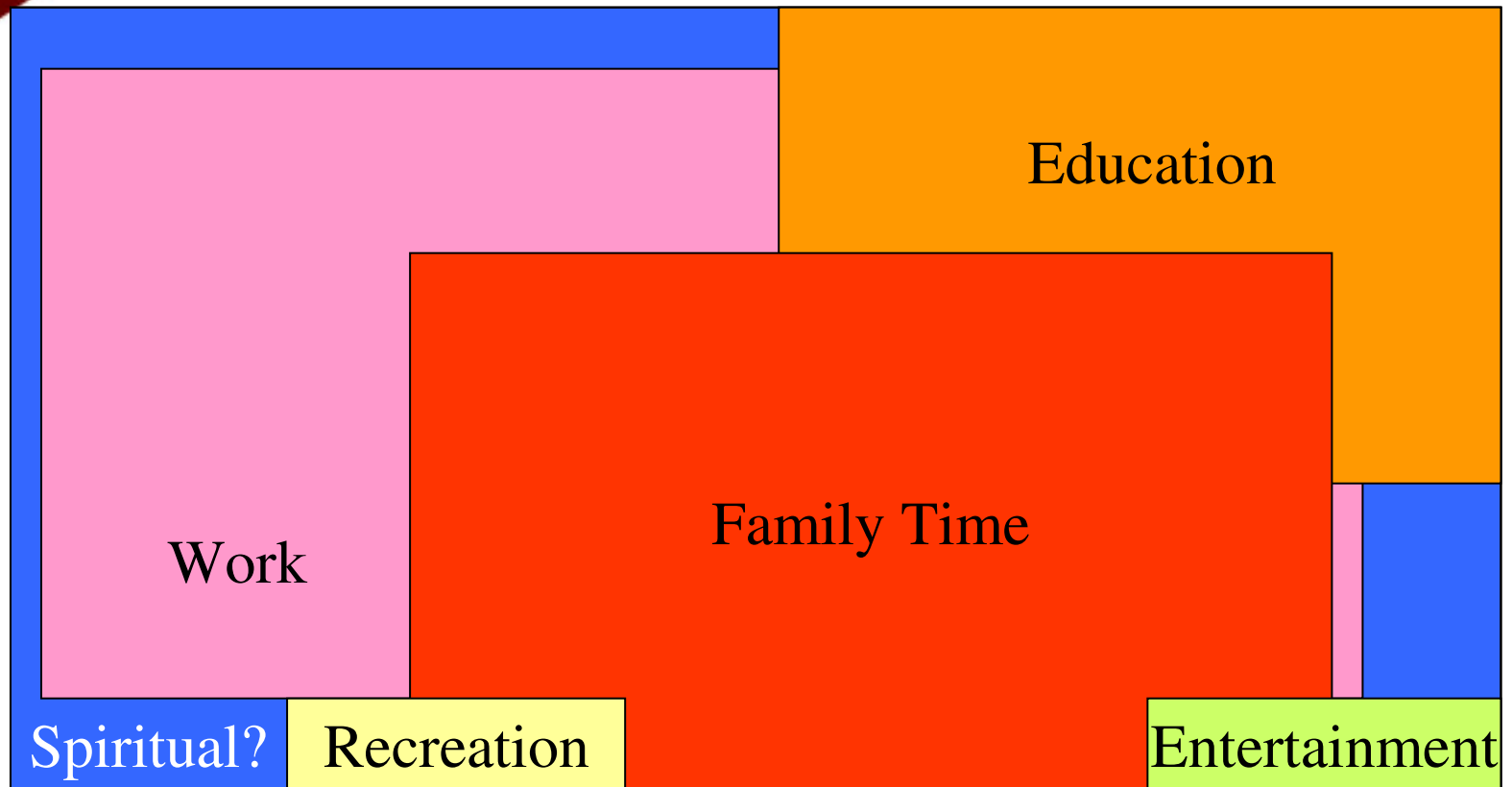
Non-sleeping time

Modern American Culture



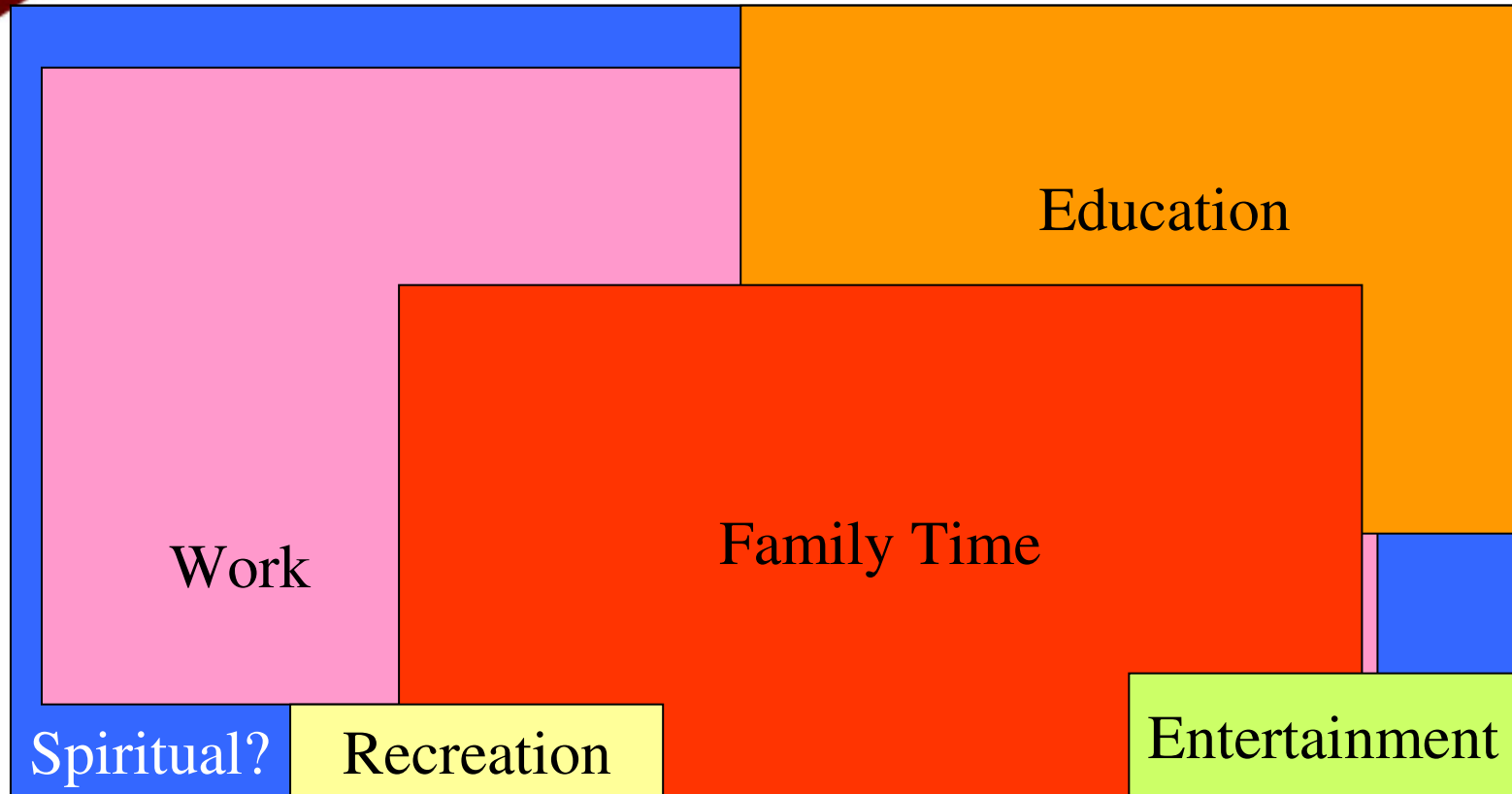
Non-sleeping time

New Testament Culture



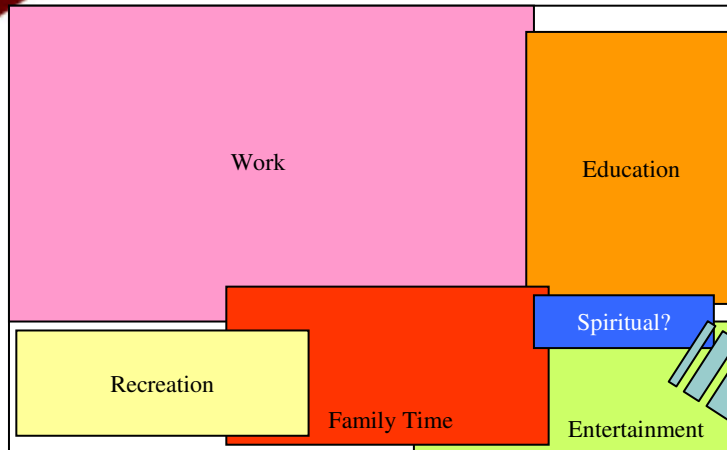
Non-sleeping time

American Culture pre-Industrial Revolution



Non-sleeping time

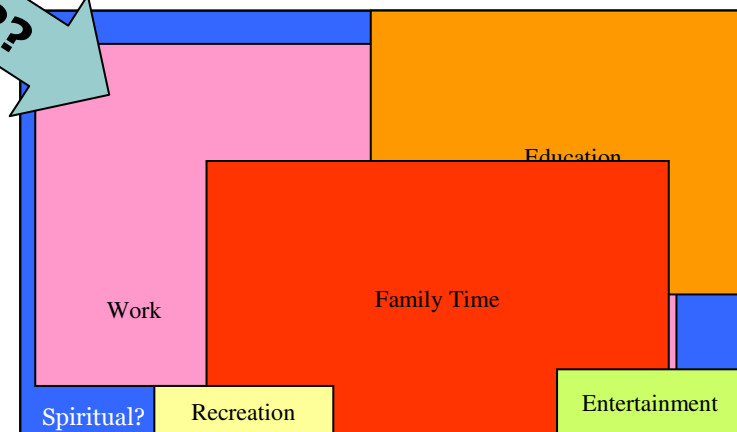
Getting From Here to There???



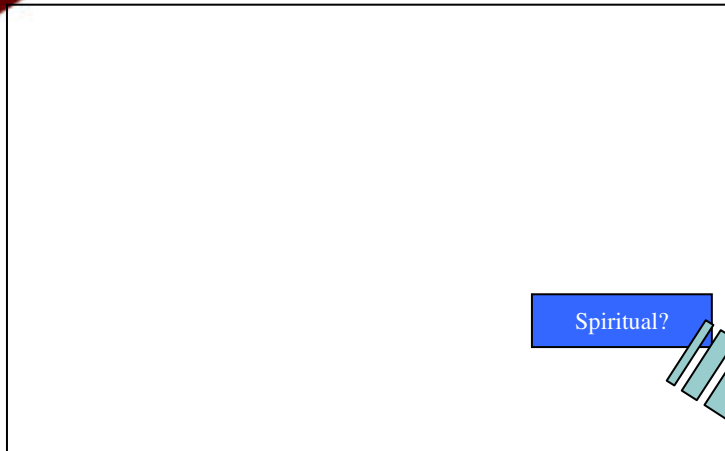
○ Go forward, humbly

- Take bold steps (of any size)
- Focus: not on the size of the boxes, but harmony of boxes

- Question everything
 - Education (homeschool?)
 - Work (vs. "job")
 - Church (vs. "club")
 - Others (vs. Scripture)

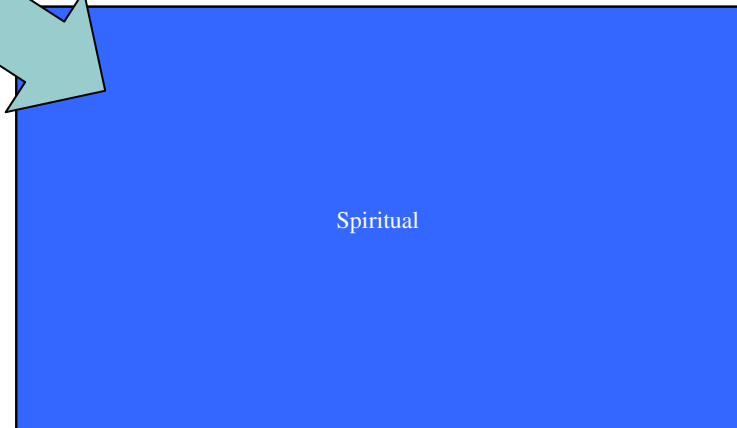


First Steps



- Humbling Ourselves – we are not our own!
- Am I spending my time in the fear the Lord?

- Confess & Repent
- Commit yourself to His Ways (from His Word)





Building a Roadmap

- Obvious sin? Repent immediately
- Diligently study the Scriptures
- Gain vision & list hurdles
 - Identify steps to overcome
 - Try new ideas
 - Sign your family up
- Seek wisdom
 - **2** My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. **4** But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. **5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6** But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. (James 1:2-6)