

THE BIBLICAL MAN

by Mark Driscoll

Define your life forward, live it backward.

- **YOU HAVE AN OX:** You'll be shoveling your barn your whole life. As your grow older, you'll gain more oxen (job, family, car, ministry). The only way to stop shoveling is to shoot your ox, and then you won't get crops.
- **YOU HAVE AN AXE:** Work smart, not hard; on your life, not in it. Use the right tools.

You need a plan.

- **Be humble** enough to go to guys who know what they're doing.
- **Be prayerful** about your planning and your execution.
- **Be active** by writing down what comes to you as it comes.
- **Be open** to the fact that everything is in pencil - that God is sovereign and he can involve himself at any point.

Reverse engineer your life.

- **Write out (no more than) 7 priorities**

What are the most important things?

Start with "Living." (Food, shelter, health.) Consider walking with God,

being a husband, being a father, making money, friends, family

As opportunities come, make decisions in light of priorities (this gets harder, not easier)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

- **Think as far into the future as you possibly can**

Be reasonable - probably the next season

Have a plan, focus in on it, know what you're looking for, and then execute it

Pick a day on the calendar and plan for where you want to be on that day for each of these priorities

1. What state will your health be in?
2. What will sabbath, vacations, and holidays look like?
3. Where are you going to live (invest in a house)?
4. How long will your commute be?
5. What furniture and appliances will you have gotten rid of or acquired?

6. What will your job look like?

7. What will your budget be?

8. What will your marriage look like? (Consider spiritual fellowship, care for each other, time together, affection cultivation, home become a place for unplanned connecting with each other (romantic bedroom, etc), serving together (great way to cultivate intimacy), sexuality)

9. Family (how many kids do you want to have - relationship with each child)

10. Friends (who have you gained and dropped?)

11. Extended family (who will have died, who will you be closer to, farther from?)

12. Learning (what will you have studied deeply?)

13. Ministry (what will your formal and informal ministry be?)

- **Changes (main 3 things you want to change?)**

What 3 things do you want to drop, that are draining time?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What 3 changes in your life would make the biggest difference?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What 3 things do you need the most - if you had them, they would free up your time and energy and make your life easier?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What 3 obstacles are keeping you from living by your convictions (budget, disorganized, etc)?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

• **4 kinds of problems**

	THINK YOU CAN CONTROL	THINK YOU CAN'T CONTROL
CAN CONTROL	(diet, schedule, budget, etc.) DO IT.	(finances, career, relationships, etc.) DO IT.
CAN'T CONTROL	(other people, the future, etc.) LET IT GO.	(economy, disasters, serious illness, etc.) LET IT GO.

• **4 kinds of priorities** (Is this getting me closer to God, my wife, my kids, or helping me accomplish my goals?)

	URGENT	NOT URGENT
IMPORTANT	(work, eating, etc.) DO IT.	(planning, learning, seeking counsel, etc.) DO IT.
NOT IMPORTANT	(email, phone, other's emergencies, etc.) LET IT GO.	(facebook, solitaire, tv, etc.) LET IT GO.

• **Final thoughts**

Are you working from guilt or conviction?
 Don't have a to-do list, have a priority list
 Don't exchange results for busyness
 God has given you good works, and will help you to do them.