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Tipton's "The life to come: Re-Creating retirement" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Tipton, S. M. (2018). *The life to come: Re-Creating retirement*. Nashville: Wesley's Foundery Books. 222 pp. \$26.99. ISBN 9781945935053

Steven M. Tipton is Professor Emeritus of Sociology of Religion and Senior Research Fellow at Emory University, Candler School of Theology. In this book, he reflects on retirement from a philosophical point of view. What are people's dreams of retirement? How does that differ from reality? From where have Americans gotten their expectations for the retirement stage of life? What if we challenged our views? This is what Tipton endeavors to do in this book. From interviews with three people of retirement age to financial advisors, therapists, and pastors, Tipton not only questions expectations of retirement but asks related questions on morals. What is the government's responsibility? What is the people's responsibility? What is society's responsibility to the elderly? What responsibility do the elderly have to society? He discusses differing perceptions of Social Security and what people expect from it. The bottom line is that all Americans wish to enjoy financial security in their latter years. At the same time, he raises the question of what retirement dream we should be pursuing. He describes two churches and how they create the means for older and younger generations to interact and support each other. Using these two entities as examples, Tipton encourages living a more meaningful retirement through intergenerational mutual support within communities. He calls for everyone to live out their true identity as God's people in community, an identity from which no one ever retires.

Tipton's book is indexed and heavily footnoted, drawing on other philosophers as well as government data. It would serve well as a springboard for discussion of social issues surrounding retirement years in the United States. Other books that embrace the importance of relationships and contain practical steps to work toward a meaningful retirement are: *Purposeful Retirement* by Hiram W. Smith; *Building Blocks for the New Retirement* by Joan Tabb; and *Breaking the Watch: the meaning of retirement in America* by Joel S. Savishinsky.

Reviewer

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