

THE BIBLE: PRACTICAL AND RELEVANT FOR TODAY

By: Robert J. Tamasy

For a number of years it has been my privilege to edit and often write “Monday Manna” each week. It is very encouraging to hear about people around the world who have benefited from these e-mails because of many people who translate it into more than a dozen languages, including Spanish, German, Korean, Chinese, Hungarian, French, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch, and most recently, Japanese. It is my heartfelt conviction the Bible provides a wealth of wisdom and practical insight for the business and professional world that is unsurpassed by any other resource. But I did not always believe this.

In the late 1970s, I was a newspaper editor that believed in God in a generic sense. If you had asked then, however, what relevance I thought the Bible had for my work – or my everyday life, for that matter – I would have probably responded, “Not much.” My relationship with God consisted of attending church once a week and – during the occasional crisis that seemed beyond my control – a frantic moment of prayer asking for His help (which I promptly forgot about once the crisis had passed).

Then I became editor and publisher of a newspaper in another city and began attending another church. The pastor of this congregation had at one time been a newspaper reporter and communicated in a way I could relate to easily. He helped me to understand the Bible is practical and relevant for every aspect of life, including work, marriage, family life, finances, relationships, even recreation. The following is just a sampling of what I have learned just from the Bible’s book of Proverbs during the years since then:

God will guide my life and career. After years of agonizing about what direction my career should take, I realized that God had a special, unique plan for me – and that I could trust Him to know what was best for me and my family. *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight”* (Proverbs 3:5-6).

God will bless my plans. Time after time, I have found that as I do my business and personal planning with the intention of honoring God, enables me to achieve far more than I could have imagined. *“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed”* (Proverbs 16:3).

God will reveal my motives. Often I have wondered, “What am I doing – and am I doing it for the right reasons?” As I have prayed, God has helped me to answer those questions honestly and, if necessary, make appropriate corrections if my underlying intentions are wrong. *“All a man’s ways seem right to him, but the Lord weighs the heart”* (Proverbs 21:2).

God will restrain my tongue. I have always had a tendency to speak in haste before thinking, causing a lot of hurt for family, friends and colleagues in the process. God has taught me that often it is wiser to say nothing, waiting until the emotion of the moment has passed so I can respond more wisely. *“When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise”* (Proverbs 10:19).

God will teach me humility. We often think of personal setbacks and failures as “tests,” but a true test of character is also how we respond to our successes – and when people speak well of us. Do we puff up with pride, or can we accept praise humbly, grateful for opportunities we have received, the giftedness we were born with, and the people who have helped us along the way? *“The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise he receives”* (Proverbs 27:21).

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Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. Do you agree that the Bible is practical and relevant for work and everyday living, or do you regard it simply as just some “religious” book with little or no significance or meaning for the real world? Explain your answer.
2. A prominent business executive said he used to listen to every motivational message and read every business book he could find, until he encountered the Bible and started to study its teachings. Then he concluded that the Bible is the greatest, most profound book on business ever published. How would you respond to that comment?
3. What, if any, have been the greatest insights from the Bible that you have gained that apply to your work responsibilities and challenges?
4. Can you think of any workplace issues that you do not believe are addressed in the Bible?

NOTE: If you have a Bible and would like to consider some other passages that speak about the significance of the Bible as the Word of God for everyday life, turn to the following:

Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-6, 19:7-11, 119:9,11, 65-72; 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12