

Work Matters: Connecting Sunday Worship to Monday Work

by Tom Nelson

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Reviewed by David W. Gill

www.davidwgill.org

Tom Nelson is pastor of Christ Community Church in Leawood Kansas. He is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and the author of two previous books: *Five Smooth Stones: Discovering the Path To Wholeness of Soul* and *Ekklesia: Rediscovering God's Design for the Church*. *Work Matters* is the product of a profound awakening Nelson had a few years ago. He actually got up in front of his congregation and confessed that he had failed them as a pastor in that his ministry ignored their work lives almost completely. He vowed that it would be different going forward.

The first four chapters of *Work Matters* are a breezy, conversational (I mean this as a compliment!) introduction to thinking about work in light of creation, fall, redemption, and eschatological consummation. Chapter 5 challenges us about what God is bringing to our workplace through us, and chapter 6 is about how workplace cultures shape us unless we seek the transforming renewal of our minds by God. Chapter 7 shows how God-honoring work contributes to the common good, not just my good and the church's good.

Chapter 8 gives great advice on finding work that fits with your giftedness and God's calling. Chapter 9 is an excellent perspective on temptations and challenges we might face in the workplace. These two chapters are where Nelson's pastoral wisdom and insight especially come through. The book concludes with chapter 10 on how the local church might be better at encouraging its workers in their callings.

Work Matters is a very readable, accessible introduction, especially valuable for seminarians, pastors and church leaders. Each chapter concludes with discussion questions and a case study of an individual. The book is full of good biblical texts and lessons and personal/pastoral illustrations. The theology is biblically sound and the pastoral advice is persuasive. Three cheers and a PTL for this great friend of workplace disciples and their pastors.