

# WORK, WORLDVIEW, AND CONFORMING

written by Mark Barry

*Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2*

I have often been asked in job interviews "Where do you see yourself in five years' time?". I presume it is a question to see how ambitious you are. You can never be too ambitious! I am at an age where thankfully that is no longer asked, but if I had the opportunity to answer that question I would answer and say, "In five years' time I would like to be more patient than I am now, kinder, more generous with my time, energy and finances, more honest in my dealings with colleagues and clients, and definitely more joyful all round." I wonder how many employers would like that answer?

The standard of the world in the workplace is to **have, do** and **then become**. Let me explain. If I have this position or that title, then I will not only be able to do my work, but also be invited to conference or network in a higher realm. This will enable me to become better known, become a greater influencer or become more marketable. The world's view is to have, do and become in that order. If I have the right status, or right job or position, then I can play golf with the right people, mix with the elite and be recognized for the person I deserve to be. By adopting the standards of this world in the workplace, one can become puffed up with a sense of false importance and significance. As it is written, those in authority in the world lord it over their subjects, not understanding that it is God who gives us our ability (Rom 12:6), our intelligence (Dan 2:21), our wealth (Deut 8:18) and our promotions (Ps 75:6-7). This world teaches us to associate work with our desire for success, significance, provision and purpose.

However, scripture teaches us that it is God and God alone to whom we should look to for these things. God's priority is **becoming**, then **doing, then having**. We need to become dependent on Him, become a servant who works with Him in mind, become humble in our workplace, become honorable and honest in our place of work so that we become trustworthy and reliable. In this way, you will become beyond reproach and your superiors will acknowledge your worth to themselves and to the company. This goes for manual as well as mental work, because all honest work is honorable to God. By becoming the purpose God needs in the workplace, what you will do will have significance and influence beyond what you can see. The "having", God will look out for, as He is more concerned about us having a character that reflects Him than material things.

As it is written in Matt 6:33: *Seek first the Kingdom of God AND His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.*

If our mindset towards work is prioritized the way God wants us to view it, then according to Romans, we will know what the good, acceptable and perfect will of God is.