



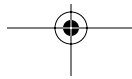
Foreword



Over the last few decades the significance of the marketplace for Christians has come increasingly into focus. Some have stressed the importance of seeing work as a divine calling or vocation, or as a ministry or service of the kingdom. Others have emphasized the need for a more comprehensive theology and ethics of work in general and of workplace trends, pressures, dilemmas, challenges and opportunities in particular. More recently the role of work as a spiritual practice or discipline has come up for discussion. Alongside these is a continuing concern with appropriate ways of being a witness or sharing the gospel in the workplace. This growing interest among Christians in the marketplace has also resulted in the development of organizations to further its progress, publications to clarify its concerns and gatherings to network its key advocates.



In addition to more attentive and focused thought being given to this area, Christians who live out most of their lives in the marketplace require resources to help them fulfill their workplace responsibilities. One of the most effective resources to appear in recent years is the *Word in Life Study Bible*, which flags and comments on every reference to work, the city, economy, society and the environment as well as on every lay believer, including marketplace believers, identified in Scripture. This resource was the brainchild of Pete Hammond, who worked with a team of scholars over a number of years to produce it.





While he was still supervising this project, Pete envisioned a second resource for the working Christian, an annotated bibliography of the main writings on the subject.

This has been an ambitious project, and Pete was only intermittently able to find the help he needed to complete it. I have watched and cheered its progress from the sidelines, and now and then I have been involved in discussions about it. But at last the task is done and what a wonderful resource it will be.

The following pages include a carefully selected list of over seven hundred publications that feature much of the best writing on Christianity and work over the last several decades. The annotations contain a mixture of description and evaluation and are a model of economy and usefulness. The annotations are enhanced by the provision of indexes at the end of the volume, which will be of great help for personal Bible study, for small group leaders and researchers, and as an aid in sermon construction. Pete Hammond himself provides an introductory survey of writings and developments in the area of Christianity and work.

My hope is that this volume will find itself on the bookshelves of every thinking Christian whose main field of service to God is in the marketplace—every Christian who initiates or facilitates discussions in and around their workplace, every leader of Bible study groups consisting of significant numbers of marketplace believers, every Christian educator in local churches, every college and university student ministry staffer, and every pastor committed to equipping his or her people for their ministries of daily life.

I congratulate Pete Hammond and his team on another significant resource to assist the people of God to change our world God's way.

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