



Marketplace Moments

Bibliophoria

Thank God it's Monday

There are a couple of books by the same name so make sure you get the right one by Mark Greene.

Mark Greene is the director of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. He previously worked in London and New York for the leading advertising agency Olgivy and Mather before becoming lecturer and then vice-principal at the London Bible College. He frequently writes and speaks on issues relating to ministry in the workplace.

This revised edition is fun, fast and full of stories. A highly practical book looking at making the most of the time we spend at work. Examining our jobs, colleagues and bosses from God's point of view. Expanding the 'spiritual' part of life from the weekend to the workplace and understanding that God is at work there through us, in us, and in those we work with.

From LICC Web-Site

What I like about Mark's writing is that is very readable for us common folks on the street and at the workplace. He put many illustrations of his own experience and seeks to inte-



grate it with his theology. There are a number of funny stories and encounters that brings what we understand of marketplace or workplace theology (a very dry term, *cringe cringe*) to life.

Unlike some other books on the same topic, it carries a very balanced view without too much sensationalizing.

By Timothy Liu

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Of the Heart and Mind

OFFICE LANTERNS

What does *God* want me to *do* in the workplace? That's a valid enough question that I am always heartened to hear Christians ask. But even when we learn about how *God* has a mission field for us in the marketplace, a shadow of guilt and anxiety comes in: on some days, it may feel like another boss has thrown us an additional portfolio to handle. HOW much must I do for *God* in my office to satisfy Him? What key areas of results is He looking out for? Did I just stumble on one more area for *God* to hold me accountable and squirming for?

Ephesians 2:10 says clearly that we are "created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which *God* prepared in advance for us to do" (NIV) - and I can easily believe that this definitely includes my workplace. The preceding verses are the famous cornerstones of our faith - "it is by grace you have been saved, through faith". By this truth we are freed from the horrific pressure of trying to earn salvation by frantic good deeds - because its is "not by works, so that no one can boast".

But it is the phrase in between these quotes that intrigues me: "For we are *God's* workmanship". The Greek word for 'workmanship' here is *poiema* - something made or created, like a fabric. It is, incredibly, the root of the English word "poem". What



does this mean?

In this age of mass-manufactured disposable products, instant entertainment and rapid job-switching, we easily forget that our unchanging *God* is an 'old-school' kind of craftsman - lovingly attentive, incredibly skilled, relentlessly in pursuit of creating beauty that will endure the test of time.

The Chinese lantern displays during this Mid-Autumn are a perfect illustration of what it means to be *God's* handiwork. There is nothing quite like walking into a landscaped garden at night with hundreds of delicate lanterns glowing. Each is a unique work of art, but their intricate patterns would all be hidden if not for the power of a burning candle inside them. *God* has put His Light into all of us, and if we let Him, he will continually refine our charac-

ter to better and better display His Son's glory - and all of us are divinely different as proof of *God's* infinite creativity and endless attributes.

So amidst all the dilemmas and pressures of being a Christian at work, the first thing we need to do is thank *God* every day that we are not just 'employees' to Him, living in fear and striving by our own strength to hit key "spiritual" targets in office. Instead we acknowledge our helplessness to accomplish ANYTHING of good without Him - and humbly put ourselves into the master Lantern-Maker's hands every day. We are created in Him for good works, but this flows forth from first BEING what He wants us to be, not what we define ourselves to be. That is how we can hope to shine in the workplace - you in your small corner, and I in mine.

By David Khoo



Anne Hathaway as Andrea Sachs

Eyes in a Darkened Room

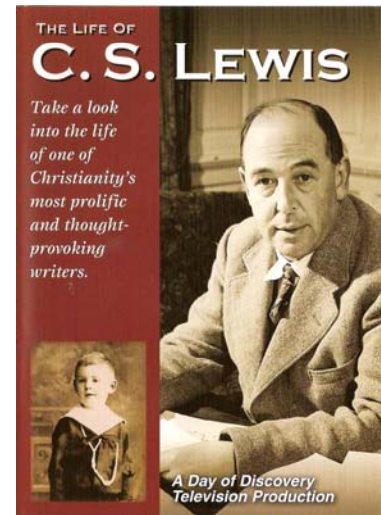
Briefly Noted

The Life of C.S. Lewis, 2005, Day of Discovery, <http://www.dod.com>, (produced by RBC Ministries, distributed by Discovery House Publishing, (800) 653-8333, www.dhp.org).

'To some, C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) is known as the 20th century's most prolific apologist of the Christian faith.....To most, he is known only for such books as *The Narnia Chronicles*, and *Mere Christianity*.'

For those of us who are not very familiar with this popular writer, this series of 4 short (each segment approximately 20

minutes long) programs about the different seasons of C.S. Lewis's life - from childhood till his eventual death in 1963 - is a brief but delightful introduction to this man. I say delightful for a number of reasons. Firstly, as I have mentioned it is a brisk but reasonably yet comprehensive survey of Lewis's life --outlining in a broad strokes as it were of a life that was immensely rich with the most fascinating details. Secondly, it presents information that I have not seen recorded or presented anywhere else. There are interviews with rather a number of individuals who were personally acquainted with Lewis but whom I was unaware of and had not had the delight in hearing their reminiscence of his daily life. Additionally, up till now, I have seen



some rather grainy two-dimensional black and white period photographs of some of the places pertinent to important in Lewis's

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The Devil Wears Prada

Here is another film that has caught my attention. Well...OK, it was actually Anne Hathaway to start with. It was about Andrea (by Anne Hathaway), a journalist hopeful, that lands herself in a job as personal assistant to Miranda Priestly (by Meryl Streep), editor of the high fashion Runway magazine, typically described as the 'boss from hell'. It was a job others described as 'a million girls would die for' and Andrea was hopeful that this will land her with what she wanted if she stuck to it, a 'REAL' job as a journalist in any magazine of her choosing with Miranda's recommendation.



This movie is a great conversation or discussion starter with groups who wants to begin discussing modern work-life. There are

issues relating to employer employee relationships, relationships among colleagues, work-life balance, boundaries at the workplace with a lighter side of comedy.

Questions for reflection:

- 1) In what way do you identify with Andrea or any particular character?
- 2) What are some assumptions in the movie that are contrary to biblical principles?
- 3) Is it just fanciful thinking or is there no Christian way out of the dilemma between the trade off of success at work and personal values?

By Timothy Liu

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life. For those of us who are arm-chair tourists, examples it will be of particular interests to now see 'techni-colored' videos of the actual 'rooms' that Lewis inhabited occupied at both Oxford and Cambridge, interiors of the famous 'Bird and Baby' (the 'pub') where the Inklings met to share and discuss their most recent writings, and so on. A smattering of glimpses of his world (from the intimacy of his actual rooms at Oxbridge and 'The Kilns' (Lewis's home near Oxford) to the vast wild expanses and wilderness of the Irish country-

side which stoked that fired his imagination.

If you are an ardent Lewis fan, this is Lewis-lite,.....very lite! Though there are insightful comments peppered throughout the program, this is not a series that pretends to be analytical. On the other hand, if you, or your family are newly interested in this author - perhaps you have greatly enjoyed *The Narnia Chronicles*, or delighted in one or more of Lewis's more popular Christian books of apologetics such as *Mere Christianity*, or *The Screwtape Letters*, - then these four pro-

grams are an enjoyable introduction to the man behind the writing! Please be informed that the Board of Film Censors, Singapore imposes a 'PG' rating on these programs, and perhaps appropriately so as some of the matters concerning the nature of love, or end-of-life issues can be disturbing to younger viewers.

The series is warmly narrated by Os Guinness.

By Yap Vong Hin