

MONDAY MANNA

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INDISPENSABLE, LIKE A MOBILE PHONE?

By Robert J. Tamasy

How did we ever survive without mobile phones? Have you wondered about that recently? Decades ago, before mobile phones became commonplace, it was not a concern. If we had an urgent need to place a call, we would seek out a payphone somewhere – in a store, or even along a roadside. If someone needed to reach us while we were traveling in a car, or somewhere without phone service, they were just out of luck.

Today, however, leaving home or work without a mobile phone sometimes seems as if we forgot to put on an essential item of clothing. We almost feel naked. I have a friend who in the 1980s became a highly successful sales executive for what was then known as Cellular One. In those days users practically needed to be bodybuilders to heft the briefcase-sized communications devices, but he sold them just the same. Now they easily fit into a pocket or purse.

Mobile phones, thanks to great advances in technology, have become indispensable for our lives. A successful business or professional person without a mobile phone is like a motor vehicle without tires. It does not work very well – and neither do they. But in reality, seeking to integrate our faith into the workplace without having the Bible readily available as a resource is not recommended either.

Some time ago someone gave me a copy of a brief article by that well-known source, “Anonymous,” that asks, “What would happen if we treated our Bible as we treat our mobile phones?” Consider:

What if we carried our Bible around in our purse or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to get it if we forgot it at work, or at home?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it as if we could not live without it?

What if we gave it to family members as gifts?

What if we relied on it whenever we travelled?

What if we used in case of emergency?

The Bible is not a religious book; it is a manual for everyday life and work. God has given it to guide us through opportunities, decisions and challenges of every day. Here are some examples of its value:

A source of wisdom. Among the Bible’s many values needed for success and leadership skill, none is more important than wisdom: *“for attaining wisdom and discipline, for understanding words and insight; for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair”* (Proverbs 1:2-3).

A source of guidance. Asking what to do, how to do it, and why, the Bible gives answers: *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man (and woman) of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work”* (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

A source for success. We all seek a clear path to success. The Bible promises to provide that: *“Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful”* (Joshua 1:8).

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Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your reliance on your mobile phone? How different would it be if for whatever reason you had to work without a mobile phone readily available?
2. Have you ever forgotten your mobile phone at home, or at work? How did that make you feel?
3. Can you imagine applying the same principles about dependence on mobile phone communication to becoming dependent on the Bible? Explain your answer.
4. If you were to describe the role, if any, of the Bible in how you approach a typical workday, what would that be? Do you think it could become more important in your day-to-day activities and decisions? Why or why not?

NOTE:

If you have a Bible and would like to read more about this subject, consider the following passages:

Psalm 119:9-11,105; Ephesians 2:8-10; Matthew 4:4; John 17:17; Hebrews 4:12

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