

Capitalism vs Balderdash

6-9-21

1. Sunday on the sixth of June I taught in part the Doctrine of Capitalism vs Balderdash. Tonight, I want to finish that doctrine.

2. I want to review some of that taught and then bring new material on page three.

3. First, however, we need to use 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.

4. Capitalism is “an economic system that is based on private ownership of the means of production and the creation of goods or services for profit based on the needs of a competitive market.”

4.1 Maximum freedom for the individual is God's optimum. In our body of theology, we call freedom our first divine institution--volition. The right of private property and protection of property rights is repeatedly established in Scripture. Exo 20:15-17; 22:2

4.2 Free enterprise is God's plan for His client nations. A capitalistic system will produce excess and make for maximum resources for charity.

5. Scripture provides insight into what causes poverty. In the following verses you will find numerous uses of the English word "sluggard" or "slothful"; this is **Atsel** in the Hebrew and means idle, habitually lazy, lethargic, lean or indolent. Scripture indicates a failure to work results in a failure to provide for one's future. Pro 6:6-11; 13:4; 19:15

5.1 Wickedness or evil we call “reversionism.” Reversionism is the product of a refusal to apply the protocol of God. As a general rule God makes it tough on people negative toward His Word. Pro 10:3; 28:20

5.2 A drunkard or glutton will experience poverty. Pro 23:20-21

5.3 Being industrious is a means of avoiding poverty. Foolish people pursuing impractical fantasies also make for poverty. Pro 28:19

5.4 A slothful man is lazy and as a result often poor. Pro 19:24

5.6 The indolent (in the Old Testament economy) were often lazy and, as a result they quite frequently ended up as slaves. Pro 12:24

5.7 The habitually lazy are very often wasteful. Pro 12:27

5.8 The slothful person will suffer hunger. Pro 19:15

5.9 The person who seeks a fast profit often finds poverty. The same is true for the miser. Pro 28:22; 2Co 9:6

6. No matter how hard we try to eliminate poverty, these efforts will prove futile; the poor will always be with us. This does not mean that we should refuse to perform what God commands with reference to assisting those less fortunate. Mat 23:11;

6.1 Jesus' prediction of pervasive and everlasting poverty was part of a rebuke to the world's greatest liberal - Judas Iscariot. Joh 12:4-6

6.2 It is the Lord who makes the poor and the rich; therefore, it is He who can eradicate poverty as well as bestow affluence. Psa 75:7-8

7. Charity for the truly destitute is a bona fide function for the establishment.

7.1 Every third year a tithe designated for the Levite priests and the poor of the land was paid to the treasury. Deu 14:28-29

7.2 There is no authorization in Scripture for assisting the poor in other lands; internationalism is always evil. There is one exception. We are to evangelize the entire world. However, each national entity is responsible for what occurs within its national boundaries.

7.3 Nationalism is one of the divine institutions; it is Satan who weakens the nations. Isa 14:12

8. There is a special blessing for those who help the poor.

Pro 22:9 A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.

Now for new material:

1. Even when government exceeds its authority and eschews establishment principles, we are to heed their mandates. For example, if the government steals from the rich by requiring more than a ten percent across-the-board income tax and foolishly throws money at every problem, including the eradication of the world's poverty, we are to react with faithful submission.

2. The epistles seem to demand that each local church address poverty; it is, however, a matter uniquely the province of individuals within a local church. For example, benevolent funds are to be established within each local church to care for their indigent.

1Ti 5:3 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need.

1Ti 5:4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.

2.1 It should be noted that all of the assistance is based on a free-will offering without pressure.

3. Never do we find instruction to help those who can and will not work; in fact, quite the contrary, there is an admonition not to help those who refuse to work.

2Th 3:11 We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies.

2Th 3:12 Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat.

3.1 Let's look at a "problem passage" and apply what we have learned.

Acts 4:32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

3.2 There are those who teach this passage authorizes Socialism, Communism or Liberalism as the Christian's paradigm.

3.3 Nothing could be further from the truth in the light of a categorical study.

3.4 The ultimate welfare state cannot tolerate private property. As earlier noted in Exo 20:15, 17 and 22, the Bible very clearly establishes the right of its citizens to own private property. Socialism and Communism in its purest form eliminate private property.

Exo 20:15 "You shall not steal."

Exo 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Exo 22:2 "If a thief is caught breaking in and is struck so that he dies, the defender is not guilty of bloodshed;

3.5 Acts 4:32 is a clear display of Christian charity and does not imply state control. For the misguided, I would simply ask, where is the state mentioned in the following passages.

Acts 4:32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

Acts 4:33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

Acts 4:34 There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales

Acts 4:35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

3.5.1 Clearly, God's protocol both in the Old Testament and New Testament urge its citizens to protect property rights.

Mat 12:29 "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house."

3.6 The welfare state is often based on class hatred and a desire to transfer wealth from the rich to the poor by means of government force. God is not an egalitarian. Heaven will not be a place of equality.

Jer 31:34 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, **from the least of them to the greatest,**" declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Heb 8:11 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

3.7 Such community of goods as set forth in Acts 4:32 was not compulsory but voluntary; it was a way for the Christian to eliminate special needs--an act of voluntary sharing.

15.8 Keep in mind that Jerusalem was overflowing with many Jewish people and Gentile converts coming from all over the world to worship during Passover and those feasts immediately following the Passover.

3.9 Many of these people had extended their stay beyond original plans and were in special financial need as they anxiously awaited the imminent return of their Messiah. Unfortunately, those gathered knew nothing of the dispensations to come and their intercalations.

3.10 The manifest needs of many precipitated a voluntary sharing in a time of great financial disparity.

3.11 This occasion recorded for us in Scripture is a beautiful display of oneness and caring among believers. It must be observed this sharing was voluntary on the part of each believer.

Acts 4:32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

3.12 All of the sharers were anticipating the Messiah's kingdom, when as our Lord said repeatedly, "there will be no need for material things."

3.13 They were misguided in their assumption that their Messiah with His promised earthly Kingdom, would soon return for Israel. After reviewing Peter's first and second sermons, it is clear these early church disciples had not learned of the Church Age and its insertion between the First and Second Advents of Jesus.

3.13.1 Certainly, the Church Age intercalation was not anticipated.

3.14 This was a time of great persecution and great need. This act of sharing was restricted to the Jerusalem church and we find no further application in the epistles.

4. Capitalism is taught in both the Old and New Testament and big government is never prescribed.

5. Now let's take a look at the nation's latest nonsense.

Balderdash

1. We face a near and present danger today. Many of our citizens, particularly our young people, have lost their minds. They are today being led by what I have chosen to call the religion of "Balderdash."

2. A new movement has replaced common sense. A movement more subtle than its predecessor, creeping communism, and that movement goes under various names. It is subtle and seemingly innocuous but that's what makes it so dangerous.

3. It is called international environmentalism. I don't want to dwell too long here but listen to what a great but confused American has written about man and his relationship with the trees of this world.

"Most of the species unique to the rain forests are in imminent danger, partly because there is no one to speak up for them ... The Pacific yew can be cut down and processed to produce ... taxol (a raw material for a cancer fighting drug) ...

"It seems an easy choice - sacrifice the tree for a human life - until one learns that three trees must be destroyed for each patient treated ... Suddenly we must confront some tough questions. How important are the medical needs of future generations? Are those of us alive today entitled to cut down all of these trees to extend the lives of a few of us, even if it means that this unique form of life will disappear forever," End of Quote from Al Gore's book *Earth In The Balance*.

4. It is my belief that world temperatures have been rising since Greenland ceased to be green and the Vikings decided to sail south; however, the notion that man has anything to do with the phenomena is balderdash.

4.1 A balderdash anecdote will illustrate: “A local TV meteorologist in August of 2017 was frantic when he announced Austin was hotter than normal, in fact Camp Mabry he said: recorded a record temperature. The former record was recorded in 1937.

5. And then thinking Austinites” did some fact-checking and found that 1937 was equally hot. Interestingly, Austin in 1937 had a population of less than 19,000 and very little business activity as compared to 2017.

5.1 Yet man was said to be the culprit and man must put the brakes on prosperity and go live in the desert and eat cactus in some secluded cave if we are to solve the problem of warm summers. Please excuse the hyperbole.

6. Another weird idea making the rounds today is the apotheosis of diversity; even to the point of injuring the very people we are trying to help. Not only do we not help them by not demanding they acculturate but we provide them with excuses for their failures; this is the cruelest of sympathies. Statistical imbalances are seen today as evidence of discrimination even when reality would seem to prove otherwise.

7. Minorities are taught that they fail, not because of reasons for which they may be responsible but rather they are taught their failure is the system which is loaded with prejudice warring against their success.

8. To think that short people are not in the NBA because of discrimination is thought by most to be absurd and we can all laugh about it. Thomas Sowell, a tall, brilliant “African American”, and Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institute Stanford University has written: "Americans wouldn't tolerate inferior basketball on television just to accommodate short white people.

8.1 To think that short white people not being in the NBA in proportion to their number in the general population is because of discrimination is laughable and rightly so. And yet, when applied to fields of study, jobs, test scores etc. many “jump” to the conclusion that skewed statistical representation spells discrimination.”

9. If all this sounds ludicrous, we must face the indisputable fact that government agencies have been borne and continue to exist today based on such ill thought logic.

10. Though it is balderdash to the thinking man, many people including our lawmakers take it quite seriously as the long arm of government reaches deep into the operation of family, school, business and military organizations. Just think of the impact on our military when physical fitness requirements are dumbed down in order to accommodate same sex fitness tests.

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