



CAPITOL COMMISSION

God's Economics (Proverbs 19:23)

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Tough times? Start over God's way!

Challenging class discussion questions:

What are you trusting God for today?

What are you counting on government to do for you?

How is debt controlling your decisions?

INTRODUCTION

The term “economy” or “economics” is so frequently used that many of us may be taking the term’s meaning for granted. Webster¹ provides a basic definition with nine variations or levels of meaning. Here is a short definition: “A system for the development, production, and management of material wealth for a nation, state, household, or business.”

START WITH A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP

Proverbs 19:23 The fear of the Lord leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.²

A synonym for “fear of the Lord” is reverence. This submissive fear is the foundation for all spiritual knowledge and wisdom. We understand that we cannot be “good” enough to earn God’s favor. Christ’s sacrificial payment restores us to a right relationship with God. As our learning about God transitions into a relationship, we begin to imitate God’s wisdom. The ultimate reward is eternal life in His presence “untouched by trouble”.³

GOD CLAIMS OWNERSHIP OF IT ALL

Psalms 50:10-12 “Every animal of the forest is already mine. The cattle on a thousand hills are mine. I know every bird on the mountains, and every living thing in the fields is mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, because the earth and everything in it are mine.”⁴

Since God owns it all, will He not take care of His people? Although we certainly need to “work the fields” serving as good stewards we are not to sacrifice our trust or our character to gain material wealth. “**No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money**” (Matthew 6:24).

GOD CARES FOR HIS CREATURES

Matthew 6:31-34 “So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”⁵

Even as Jesus rebukes followers who have weak faith He urges those outside the blessing of God to seek saving grace. This brings them under the full care and provision of God.

GOD’S INSTITUTION OF GOVERNMENT

In earlier times, families, local churches, and communities met most of the needs of Kansans. As these institutions began failing in their mission government gradually stepped in to address unmet needs. God created civil government for our protection: Punishing those who do wrong and commending those who do right (1 Peter 2:14). God’s institutions of marriage, family, and economy have missions that are separate and distinct from government.

BIBLE STUDIES

LEADERS/LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS 7-7:50 AM, CAPITOL - ROOM 142 SOUTH

STAFF & GUESTS: WEDNESDAYS 12:05 – 12:55 PM, CAPITOL - ROOM 171 W (THE NOON LOCATION MAY CHANGE)

Kansas

God's Economics

TRUSTING GOVERNMENT VS. GOD

There are long lasting impacts when one of God's institutions fails. We find an example of economic failure in Genesis 47. Seven years before a severe famine swept through Egypt, God used a young Hebrew slave named Joseph to warn the government ruler. Pharaoh stockpiled grain in anticipation of the crisis. The Egyptian people ran out of food and began purchasing grain from government storehouses. Exhausting their money, the people traded their animals, then their land, and then sold themselves to Pharaoh as indentured servants/slaves.

God provided for the Hebrew people who lived in the Goshen section of Egypt. They acquired property, were fruitful, and became very numerous (Genesis 47:27). Which people group do you relate with?

SERVITUDE TODAY

Today's equivalent to servitude may be debt. We borrow rather than trust God or wait for a season.

Proverbs 22:7 The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.⁶

Financial institutions are accomplices in the problem by making loans readily available. Government encourages debt by giving tax breaks for certain loans to businesses and individuals. The marketing industry entices us to purchase what is not essential and to act now!

Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.⁷

CONCLUSION

Ben Franklin used Proverbs 15:16 to accent his writing on life: "Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil". The Apostle Paul warns us about "fixing our hope on the uncertainty of riches" (1Timothy 6:17). Jesus counsels us about the temporary nature of material things and adds the eternal dimension. "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Are you being tested by the cares of this world, the enticement of things, the striving for material wealth? If you are, seek God's blessings of abundant life in this present world and eternal life in heaven.

¹ Noah Webster. American Dictionary of the English Language. (Webster). 1828.

² The Holy Bible. New International Version. (Biblica). 2005

³ John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible (Thomas Nelson Inc.). p865

⁴ The Holy Bible. New Century Version (Thomas Nelson Inc.) 2005.

⁵ The Holy Bible. New International Version. (Biblica). 2005

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid