
when we were with you,⁸ nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you.⁹ We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate.¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

¹¹ We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies.¹² Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat.

Economic abuses

- a. Bribery, usury, unjust gain, etc. *Ezekiel 22:12*
- b. Fraud, defrauding. *Lev. 19:13; Luke 3:13*
- c. Laziness and slothfulness. *Prov. 10:4 Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth. Prov. 18:9 One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys*
- d. Excuses: *Prov. 26:13 A sluggard says, "There's a lion in the road, a fierce lion roaming the streets!"*
- e. Idleness: *2 Thes. 3:11 If a man will not work, let him not eat*
- f. Procrastination. *Prov. 12:27 The lazy do not roast any game,*
- g. Dishonesty. *Prov. 11:1; 13:11*
- h. Materialism. *Luke 16:10-13*

- i. Presumption and greed
*Luke 12:16-21 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'*²¹ *"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."*

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Economics

Grace and Truth—part 21

September 10, 2023

A case study of government and economics

1 Kings 12:3 ...whole assembly of Israel went to Rehoboam and said to him:⁴ "Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you."

1 Kings 12:10 The young men who had grown up with him replied, "These people have said to you, 'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter.' Now tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist.'¹¹ My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.'"

"Crony" Capitalism and Profit

Genesis 6:11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence.¹² God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.

Profit

*Proverbs 14:23 All hard work brings a **profit**, but mere talk leads only to poverty.*

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

Capitalism is driven by finding **a need and meeting it.**

What is socialism?

Socialism is the pursuit of an economic system defined by government planning, direction, and control.

1 Samuel 8:10-19 Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. ¹¹ He said, "This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. ¹² Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. ¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. ¹⁴ He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. ¹⁵ He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. ¹⁶ Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. ¹⁷ He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. ¹⁸ When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the LORD will not answer you in that day."

¹⁹ *But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us."*

What is communism?

Isaiah 10:1 Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, ² to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless.

³ *What will you do on the day of reckoning, when disaster comes from afar? To whom will you run for help? Where will you leave your riches? ⁴ Nothing will remain but to cringe among the captives or fall among the slain. Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised.*

What is capitalism?

Prov. 31:16 She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷ She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. ¹⁸ She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.

Prov. 12:11 He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment.

Eph. 4:28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

Prov. 16:26 The appetite of laborers works for them; their hunger drives them on.

1 Thess. 4:11 ...and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, ¹² so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

2 Thess. 3:6 In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle
