

THE WORLDVIEW SERIES

A DEFENSE FOR AN ACTIVE, ENGAGING
AND CULTURALLY RELEVANT FAITH

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“OUR BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW AND POVERTY”

THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS WORLDVIEW

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Maturity, Worldview, Apologetics, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text:

Acts 17:28

If Today You Were To Conduct a Study of Cultures and Their Successes and Failures, Their Development and Ethics - - You Would Come to The Conclusion That Biblical Christianity Has Done More to Change the World for Good more Than Any Other Influence Known to Man.

Proverbs 4:23

Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring **the issues of life.**

Proverbs 4:23-25 NLT

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. **:24** Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech. **:25** Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes **on what lies before you.**

Remember When Your Mom Would Say “Eat All Your Vegetables Because There’s Children Starving in Africa”?

Question: "How should Christians respond to global poverty and hunger?"

According to the latest W.H.O statistics, over 840 million people worldwide are chronically undernourished due to poverty*. Every day, 26,000 young children die due to poverty, hunger, and/or preventable diseases.*

Being Poor is Different than Poverty

There is an old doctrine once again making its rounds and that basically says “*Material rejection equates to spiritual maturity.*” Its teachings call for the Christian to give up what he has so others can have also – but is it biblical and ethically moral? And what is the Biblical Worldview on this issue of poverty and the poor?

“When God blesses us financially, He intends for us to use that blessing to the blessing of others.”

Those who embrace the “own nothing, live by faith, trust God, prosperity is evil” are the same ones who depend upon the people who “own things, work hard everyday, blessed by God, and see their wealth as tools”

OUR BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW AND POVERTY

DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

1.) What Does The Bible Say About Poverty?

It’s almost always perpetrated against people

(Egypt, Sudan, Gaza, Ethiopia, North Korea)

**You May Be Surprised to Know That
Poverty is Nearly Always a Result of a Political Doctrine**

Israel Wanted Change That They Could Believe In

1 Samuel 8:6-18

But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” So Samuel prayed to the LORD. :7 And the LORD said to Samuel, “Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. :9 Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them.” :10 So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king. :11 And he said, “This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint *them* for his own chariots (*entourage*) and *to be* his horsemen, and *some* will run before his chariots. (*arrogance*) :12 He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, (*enlarged human government*) *will set some* to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and *some* to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. :13 He will take your daughters *to be* perfumers, cooks, and bakers. :14 And he will take the best of your fields,

(government take over) your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give *them* to his servants. :15 He will take a tenth (*tax*) of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. :16 And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put *them* to his work. :17 He will take a (*tax*) tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. :18 And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day.”

Or poverty can be self inflicted
(slothfulness and laziness)

Proverbs 6:6-11

Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, :7 Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler, :8 Provides her supplies in the summer, *And* gathers her food in the harvest. :9 How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? :10 A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep - :11 So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

1 Timothy 6:6-11

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. :7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. :8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. :9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. :10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. :11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

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DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

2.) What Can The Christian Do About Poverty?

Poverty is Not a Virtue

**It's God's Will That Poverty be Transitory in a Person's Life.
Transitory Poverty Provides Opportunity for Ministry.**

Matthew 26:11

For you have the poor with you always,
but Me you do not have always.

Poverty And Being Poor Must Be Defined.
One Is a Form Of Tyranny. The Other A Catalyst.

Deuteronomy 30:9

The LORD your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the LORD will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers,

News Flash

The greater the taxation, The greater the poverty, The greater the poverty, The lower standard of living, The lower standard of living, The greater dependence upon government, The greater dependence upon government, The Less dependence upon God, The Less dependence upon God, The closer you are to Hell.

(Vote people out. Vote people in)

Government Taxes will always rival Your Tithing

(It's Satan's plan)

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3.) What Does God Say About The Poor ?

He Cares for Them – *So Should We!*

Proverbs 22:9

He who has a generous eye will be blessed,
For he gives of his bread to the poor.

He Wants Them Blessed Also – *So Let's do that!*

Proverbs 19:17

He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD,
And the LORD will pay back what he has given.

This is not for the church to do only – it's what you're to be doing...

(This is for the Christian dad to do with his kids. Mom's can bake a pie and give it to a family in need)

Ruth gleaned from the fields of Boaz

(God commanded Israeli farmers to pass once thru their fields, after that it was for those in need)

He Defends The Poor – *Often Through Us*

Proverbs 17:5

He who mocks the poor reproaches his Creator;

Proverbs 28:27

He who gives to the poor will not lack,
But he who hides his eyes will have many curses.

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4.) Where Do I Begin To Help The Poor ?

Open Your New Eyes

1 John 3:17

But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

Begin Where You're At. There is a Reason Why You Live Where You Live.
Start Right Under Your Nose, Your Neighborhood, Your City.

Where Do We Begin?

Galatians 6:9-10

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. :10 Therefore, **as we have opportunity**, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

(The leadership of this church takes this very seriously and has from the beginning of this church)

Fox News = **Texas atheist Patrick Greene**

In the immediate – give them “strength”
(food, protection, shelter,)

1 Timothy 6:8

And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

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5.) How Do We Help The Poor To No Longer Be Poor?

First Off:

Do Not Look To Governments To Do What Jesus Told Us To Do.

The Greatest Way to Help the Poor & Stop World
Hunger is to Get Involved;

(1) Know that Politics is the #1 reason for global starvation. (2) Understand that Governmental agencies waste humanitarian benevolence. (3) Run for president by taking your Christian, Biblical worldview to the streets. (4) If you're trusting in the UN or FEMA to do your good works – you've wasted your efforts.

Mark 8:1-3

In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples *to Him* and said to them, :2 “I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. :3 And if I send them away hungry to their own houses, they will faint on the way; for some of them have come from afar.” *(He did not look to human agencies to get the job done – He did it)*

What Are We To Be Doing?

Luke 12:33

Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys.

**(You're Not to Sell (everything) to Become Poor Yourself.
Self Inflicted Poverty is a Sin and Stupidity.**

– You're to Sell and Give the Profits to the Assisting of Others.

A Word to The Bum.

**All Able-Bodied Men and Women Are Commanded
To provide the love and care and support of the home.**

1 Timothy 5:7-8

And these things command, that they may be blameless. :8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. :11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. :12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

Please Pray About Running for Public Office. If You Don't, The Bad Guys Will

Proverbs 29:2

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice;
But when a wicked *man* rules, the people groan.

(Imagine – in the days of pharaoh, Joseph was in charge and he saved not only the nation of Egypt but the Jewish race)

Lift Them Up Out of Their Place (*education, skills, labor, tasks, a trade*)

So What's The Conclusion Here?

Proverbs 30:8-9

Remove far from me falsehood and lying; **give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me,** :9 lest I become full and deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" or lest I become poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

(*The Doctrine of the Middle Class*)

Matthew 25:34-40

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world::**35** for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; :**36** I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' :**37**"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink? :**38** When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*? :**39** Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' :**40** And the King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.'

Note here - the language Jesus Christ uses in addressing these separated groups. The sheep were basically commended for taking care of the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, and the vulnerable. The goats, on the other hand, were chastised for their lack of concern and apathy toward them. When the righteous asked Jesus when they did these things, He responded by saying "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

We dedicate a portion of your tithes and offerings to the needy. Pray that God would always use us all as a blessing upon all in need. - Amen

The Cross

Come Forward for Prayer Tonight

End of Study

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