

Greed: Good or Bad? (part eleven in a twelve part study)

I believe in capitalism. After thirty nine years of studying the Word of God, I have no doubt that an economic system endorsed by God allows for the freedom of private ownership and private enterprise. There exists genuine motivation within each of us to build a meaningful life for ourselves when we know we have that element of freedom at work on our behalf. At the same time, I believe that capitalism can manifest itself in different forms and various ways. When a capitalistic economy is dominated by self-centered covetousness, it can deteriorate into something far from what is portrayed in Scripture. It becomes what I would call: "Greedy Bully Capitalism." Unfortunately, this is the "distortion" of a Biblically-based capitalism which currently exists in the United States of America. Greedy bullies are running and ruining our nation. They have successfully bribed politicians to do their bidding; creating legislation which removes many restraints upon their greed, allowing for the rich to get richer, at everyone else's expense.

One of the most successful propaganda talking points in support of "Greedy Bully Capitalism" is the expression: "redistribution of wealth." In order to clarify the confusion which exists among so many due to the misuse of this phrase; here is the actual relationship that exists between taxation and the redistribution of wealth. The moment a governing authority removes a single dollar from your pocket, it is halfway to completing the process known as redistribution of wealth. What if they decide to use your dollar to help pave a road in your county upon which you rarely, if ever, drive your car? Are you going to cry foul? Of course not! The road needs to be paved and that local county government is fulfilling its responsibility in meeting that need. So then, how much more important is it to meet the needs of people, than that of a road; of individuals who are truly poor and in genuine need?

This is why the kind of economy which God approves of and endorses can rightly be called: "Capitalism with a Conscience." The first line of defense in such an economy would be the conscience of the entrepreneur. The last line of defense in that economy would be the conscience of the governing authority. Therefore, what Bible believing Christian would ever want God to say this about the government under which they live, as recorded in Isaiah 1:23? --

"Your rulers are rebels and companions of thieves; everyone loves a bribe and chases after rewards. They do not defend the orphan, nor does the widow's plea come before them."

When the conscience of the entrepreneur, as well as the conscience of the governing authority, becomes seared in its bondage to the sin of greed, then woe to the people of that nation, and to Christians who justify such a corrupt status quo.