

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)

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Kingdom Economy

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Introduction

The economic systems here in America and in other countries around the world are constantly in the news as various events seem to be leading to economic troubles here and abroad. What does the Scripture say about the economy?

First we need to define the word. The Merriam-Webster electronic dictionary gives us this definition:

“the process or system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought in a country or region”

We immediately see that “economy” is a system and as such is part of the world system. [*See [July 2014 issue “The World System” for what this means.](#)*] This system is based on “buying and selling” and the accumulation of resources. The key factor that enables this process is money, so the economy, that is, buying and selling, is a money driven process that allows man to protect, provide, and preserve himself. Since the fall man has needed to do this. Prior to the fall these three areas weren't a concern since God supplied them. The god of this world [*2 Cor. 4:4*] in conjunction with fallen man has designed the world systems in such a manner that man can live independent of God. These systems are so contrary to the ways of God that John said,

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (*1 John 2:15 NASB*)

The economic system finds its fullest expression under the Antichrist before the Lord returns. The man of lawlessness will seek to control the process of buying and selling by requiring his mark in order to conduct business in this manner. At that point believers must have an alternative economic process or else yield to the idolatry of the Antichrist.

While the Lord wants to teach us His economic procedures, our problem is that all we know are the ways of the world. We have not learned the ways of the Father. The Kingdom of God operates from a different set of principles from the way that the world system operates. Nothing exemplifies this more than the economic system.

The Ways of the Father

We can only learn the ways of the Father as our minds are transformed by being renewed [Rom 12:2]. The problem is that the world has an allure for the old nature in us, which creates a conflicting desire. Our new nature yearns for the ways of the Lord while our old nature revels in the desires of the world. We can only come to grips with this as we deal with our double-mindedness.

Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And will glorify Your name forever. (Psalms 86:11-12 NASB)

The Lord has to teach us His ways. This requires a heart that is united, that is, undivided concerning the things of the Lord. We must give ourselves wholeheartedly to learning His ways and to walking in His truth.

Kingdom Economics

In contrast to the worldly manner of buying and selling, the Kingdom of God operates on the principle of “giving and receiving”. The primary key to its operation is not money but rather love for our brothers and sisters. This expands the Kingdom economy far beyond financial resources and provision into full care for the welfare of our brother. The example is given in Mark 18.

"If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. (Matthew 18:15 NASB)

The goal is winning our brother, maintaining righteous relationship. Kingdom economics values relationships whereas the world values things, that is, money and goods. The Scriptures are clear about the difference.

But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness. (1 Timothy 6:9-11 NASB)

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed. (1 Timothy 6:17-19 NASB)

Jesus said that we cannot love God and wealth [Matt. 6:24]. To think that we can do both is to deceive ourselves and results in double-mindedness. We either follow the economy of the world or the economy of the Kingdom but we can't do both. The Lord makes sure of this before His return. The mark of the beast separates those who operate by the world and those who operate by the Kingdom of God.

Equality in the Body

God did not design His economy so that some could be at ease while others suffer affliction; but, He designed it so that in His Body there might be an equality.

For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what *a person* has, not according to what he does not have. For this is not for the ease of others and for your affliction, but by way of equality-- at this present time your abundance *being a supply* for their need, so that their abundance also may become *a supply* for your need, that there may be equality; as it is written, "HE WHO *gathered* MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH, AND HE WHO *gathered* LITTLE HAD NO LACK." (2 Corinthians 8:12-15 NASB)

While you may have heard some preachers tell you to “give until it hurts” that is not the Kingdom economy. The goal is equality not giving what you don't need to give. These verses in Corinthians gives us the basic principles of Godly economy.

1. Give what you have; not what you don't have. God did not authorize “faith promises”.
2. Don't afflict yourself just for the ease of others. However, be obedient to the Spirit.
3. We give now out of our abundance as a supply to their need.
4. We receive now out of their abundance as a supply for our need.
5. The goal is equality. No inequity of supply; one does not have too much while another has too little.

Just as it says in Ecclesiastes, there is a time and a season for everything. Within God's economy there is a time to give and there is a time to receive. If we think of giving and receiving as two sides of an equation with an equal sign between them, then we know that in the resolution of all that God has for us there is always an equality. It is in God's purpose that we experience both sides of the equation.

Remember that the Kingdom economy is greater than simple finances and physical provision although these are certainly included. Love and care for one another is the economic basis of the Kingdom of God. This includes all aspects of our relationship with each other. We should be able to say with the Shunammite woman when Elisha asked her what he could do for her and she answered, “I live among my own people.”[2 Kings 4:13]. She had no need because she lived with her own people. Each of us needs to be able to say the same because we live with our own people—the people of God. His economy causes a full equity among His people. Abundance supplies need through giving and receiving.

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