



The Bible and Politics



The Bible and Economics

Some myths about capitalism

The myth of inevitable progress

The myth of endless growth

The myth of the “invisible hand”

The myth that money itself is “fruitful”

The myths of Mammon

“My worth lies in my wealth”

“My happiness lies in my wealth”

“My freedom lies in my wealth”

Jesus and Money - Luke 16:9-15 (with gratitude to Bob Goudzwaard)

My money will never be pure – v9

My money will fail – v9

My money is not my real wealth – vv10-11

My money is about relationships – v9

My money easily becomes my master – v13

The love of money has its root in pride and vain-glory – vv14-15

Questions for Homegroups

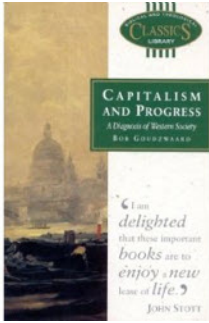
1. Review Luke 16:9-15, and the points about it made above. Which statements do you find most personally challenging?
2. Do you find yourself caught up in any of the myths mentioned on the first page?
- 3.. If our whole economic system is, to some extent, built on a series of myths and dangerous errors, how can we stand apart from it?
4. Do you think all the political parties are equally at fault in their view of money or do you think one party is better?
5. What practical steps can you make to be characteristically Christian in your use of money?

Resources on Christianity and Economics

Bob Goudzwaard

<http://www.freewebs.com/goudzwaard/>

For those who want to think reasonably deeply about the Bible and economics



Goudzwaard is an extremely helpful author. His “Capitalism and Progress” is a classic, and his little study “Bible and Economy: two reflections” forms the basis for our homegroup study. It can be found at

<http://www.freewebs.com/goudzwaard/BG103.pdf>



The Jubilee Centre & Relationships Foundation

www.jubilee-centre.org

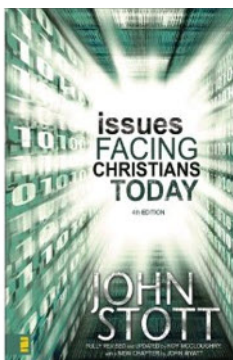
www.relationshipsfoundation.org

The founder of the Jubilee Centre, Michael Schluter is a Christian economist. He has done much pioneering work. The Jubilee Centre publishes *The Cambridge Papers* which include articles on economics.



Schluter has also founded *The Relationships Foundation* which aims to put relationships at the heart of public policy.

Recommended Books



New Issues Facing Christians Today John Stott (IVP)

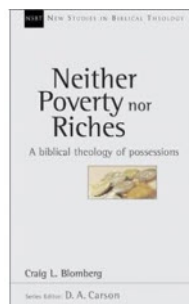
(Now showing the correct cover!)

Stott covers a range of important issues relating to economics. These include global poverty, work, business relationships, and simplicity, generosity and contentment.

THIS BOOK IS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE AT A SPECIAL PRICE OF £10.00.

Neither Poverty Nor Riches: a Biblical Theology of Possessions Craig Blomberg (IVP, 2001)

This book provides a reasonably comprehensive overview of what the bible says about possessions. Blomberg's application to his personal life is deeply challenging.



Good News to the Poor Tim Chester (IVP, 2004)

Tim Chester makes a bold and clear case for social action being an integral element of Christian witness. This is unlikely to help you decide who to vote for, but is essential reading to understand the full breadth of our calling to live as salt and light in the world.