

Marketplace Faith: A Biblical Theology of Wealth Creation

Why Do This?

- A Penance
- A Personal Concern
- A Pastoral Charge

The Intersection of Faith & Finance

- There are Primary Uses of Finances and Resources
- What is Used Must be Produced
- Faithful Stewardship and Creativity are One

Common Grace

- The Gift to Create Beauty and Steward Resources for the Benefit of Many comes from God
- God Gives these Gifts Even to those Who do NOT Know Him

Glorification

- Wine and Bread
- Not Grapes and Grain

Biblical Culture

- Gift - Inheritance/Grace
- Glorification - Cultivation
- Goals - Satisfaction/Export

Creation Points

- Humankind is Imago Dei - Made in the Image of God and for God
- Personal, Communal, Covenantal, Thoughtful, Creative-Artistic, Glorifier
- Not Homo Faber or Homo Pathos but Homo Adorans
- Work Is Pre-Fall Calling, not Post-Fall Punishment

Creation Points

- Humankind and the Created Order are Fallen and Redeemed, but Not Yet Restored
- Groaning and Sweating and Working will Remain BUT...
- They are Attended by Blessing and Satisfaction

Creation Points

- We are Stewards of God's Creation
- Spheres of Responsibility with Corresponding Gifts and Opportunities

Creation Points

- God Requires and Looks for Justice - Isaiah 5, etc
- What is Justice?
- Leviticus 19:15 - Impartiality before the Law and Generous Mercy to All, NOT Equality of Outcome mandated and enforced by Penalty

Creation Points

- Humankind is Accountable
- The Rule of Law is Essential (this can appear as 'custom' or inscription in ancient world)
- Titles to Ownership are Guaranteed - 2 Kings 8
- What is Given by Grace and Cultivated for Glory is Kept by the Faithful - to produce MORE!

Creation Points

- We are Made to Look Forward
- Eschatology of Hope underlies the Opportunity, Work, and Law Ethic that Creates Wealth
- Take Away the Future - Hope - and Meaning and Restraint Vanish as Well.
- Eat, Drink, and Be Merry....

Creation Points

- We were Made for Oversight of Creation not Subservience to Impulse
- Responsibility to Create and Export Harvests
- Ora et Labora

Next - Movement from Poverty to Wealth Creation

- Abraham - A Patriarch and Citizen
- David - A Soldier-King
- Paul - A Small Business Owner and Apostle