

# CORE VALUES

## Why What We Believe Defines Who We Are

### *The Economy of God*

Scripture

**Introduction:** In the past two studies we have seen that in creation God is the Owner of everything and that it is merely on loan to us; we are managers. We have seen that God built into His provision ample opportunities for rest and placed the value of relationships above acquiring material things. We have also heard the message of Jesus that we must make a choice: we cannot serve both God and wealth/prosperity; we can only serve one master and we must choose which it will be. In this study we will turn our focus to what the Bible has to say about work and about poverty and wealth in particular.

#### I. While God's Economy is One of Rest, It Also is One of Work

- A. Work was not the punishment of the fall, it is rooted in the character of God
  - 1. God worked for six days in creation
  - 2. "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working" Jn 5:17
  - 3. We were designed in the image of God to be industrious & creative
  - 4. The curse was related to the toil of labor & the resistance of the earth
- B. Everyone is expected to work
  - 1. Every follower of Christ has a Kingdom duty (Jn 9:4, Acts 13:2)
  - 2. Every follower of Christ is urged to lead a quiet life and to work with their hands so that they will not have need (I Th 4:10-12)
  - 3. If anyone is not willing to work, he should go hungry (2 Th 7-14)
- C. Work has intrinsic value
  - 1. Work as unto the Lord, regardless of what you do (Col 3:22-25)
  - 2. Honest and sincere work has noble goals
    - a. Laziness makes for a hard life with many frustrations (Prov. 15:19)
    - b. If anyone does not provide for his own he has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel (I Tim 5:8)
    - c. Work that we also may have something to share with those in need (Eph 4:29)

#### II. Poverty, Wealth, and You—Basic Principles Derived from Scripture

- A. One's general provision rises and falls with the community/nation.
- B. Poverty and wealth are often beyond our control and should give rise to neither shame nor pride.
- C. Wealth should never be a goal; godliness with contentment is great gain!
- D. Industry is rooted in the character of God and laziness is to be abhorred — if a person is unwilling to work they should receive no help from the church family, even if it means they go hungry.
- E. Work is given as a means of providing for one's family and one's extended family. "Charity begins at home."
- F. We should earn enough to share with those in need, if possible.
- G. With increasing wealth comes increasing responsibility; we are managers, not owners.

<sup>28</sup> *He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.*  
(Eph 4:28 NAU)

<sup>6</sup> *But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.*

<sup>7</sup> *For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.*

<sup>8</sup> *If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.*

<sup>9</sup> *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.*

<sup>10</sup> *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.*  
1Ti 6:6-10 NAU)

*...make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands (1Th 4:11 NAU)*

