

Twelve Bible Passages that Destroy Socialism and Uphold Free Enterprise

Part 4: Ethics, Justice, Order, and Freedom Are Essential Elements of a Fair and Just Free Market

Discussion Forum: Items for Reflection and Dialogue

1. When we considered our ninth passage — Proverbs 10:4-5 — we tapped a verse that carries a theme that many Bible verses carry regarding motivation to work: *The circumstance of life, especially the natural needs for food, shelter, and clothing, compel or motivate a person to engage in productive work.* Describe what being denied property rights by the government will do to the otherwise natural incentive one has to work.
2. Describe the elements of the free enterprise system evident or assumed in Ephesians 4:28. Describe the elements in the verse that align with God's directives for enjoying a relationship with Him. What provision does the verse make for those in need?
3. How does Matthew 20:15 deal a death blow to socialism? What are some other parables of Jesus that contain additional affirmations of free enterprise? Note that private property ownership and management of possessions are so woven into the fabric of Scripture that we often overlook it. This series aims to put these in the spotlight!
4. Explain why what the church practiced in Acts 2:44-45 and 4:34-35 was not socialism. Explain how Acts 5:1-11 reinforces the truth that it was not socialism. Is there a name for what the early church practiced? If so, what is it?
5. In our concluding section of this article and this series of articles, we cited three quotes — one from President Calvin Coolidge, another from sociologist, historian, and author Alvin Schmidt, and a third from historian and author William J. Federer. You can access all of these at <https://t.ly/CyUgf>. **1)** Read the Coolidge quote and explain why there is a positive correlation between central planning and tyranny. **2)** Read the Schmidt quote and explain how the free enterprise system honors human freedom without necessarily sacrificing charity. **3)** Read the Federer quote and explain why individuals and charitable organizations are far better equipped than government to perform tasks involving benevolence.
6. Our final remarks once again highlighted socialism's abysmal track record in Jamestown and Plymouth (the places where we started this series in Part 1).⁸⁴ We cited other examples as well.⁸⁵ Yet, against the backdrop of the carnage and death that socialism has left in history is the contrasting good news of free enterprise, especially when it is not abused. But many don't realize this. Despite the horrors socialism and communism have created, the socialist rhetoric of equality and compassion for those in need is winning people over. The truth isn't always what seems right or feels right, but we must learn from history and affirm the truth. Richard Nixon said, "Capitalism works better than it sounds, while socialism sounds better than it works."⁸⁶ Emotions often deceive! Economist Walter Williams observed, "Prior to capitalism, the way people amassed great wealth was by looting, plundering and enslaving their fellow man. Capitalism made it possible to become wealthy by serving your fellow man."⁸⁷ Nothing in Scripture refutes this; and, as we have seen, many Bible passages uphold free enterprise and its elements. Using the insights highlighted in this study, make the case that, indeed, capitalism makes "it possible to become wealthy by serving your fellow man."
7. How can you use the 12 verses we've highlighted in this series⁸⁸ to help other believers understand the amazing alignment of free enterprise to God's plan for human beings, as well as its alignment with the nature of human beings? **Suggestions:** You can start by sharing this article series⁸⁹ with your Christian friends and encouraging them to read and study it. Also, consider leading a Bible study discussion group at your church or in your home. Explore additional resources at <https://discoverbedrocktruth.org/bible-studies/>.

⁸⁴ <https://t.ly/dETNt>

⁸⁵ <https://t.ly/YNZ7H>

⁸⁶ <https://t.ly/5Z4SV>

⁸⁷ <https://t.ly/R9q0X>

⁸⁸ <https://t.ly/uschh>

⁸⁹ <https://t.ly/QQhyA>