

# Wealth, Poverty, and Christianity An Awkward Combination?

## Lesson 2

**From the Roman Catholics**

is in the area of the 'theology of work.'

this: '

the image of God and called to prolong the work of creation'.

hardship. 'In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread.' (Gen 3:16). But '[

of God in his redemptive work...Work can be a means of satisfaction.' All human work can be an *opus Dei*, a 'work of God.'"

# Catholic Perspectives

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# Catholic Perspective

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is God's will?

# Catholic Perspective

Condemned socialism as “..manifestly against justice.”

# Catholic Perspective

"The Socialists ...in

and the animal creation."

# Catholic Perspective



# Catholic Perspective

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# Catholic Perspective

"Not only is it wrong from the ethical point of view to progressively disorganized and goes into decline."

Protestant: United Methodist

# Protestant Perspectives



# John Wesley: Methodists

Earn (*Gain*) All You Can

# Cautions and Restrictions

Do not gain at the expense of one's mind (dealing in

# Gain All You Can

“

Christian wisdom with respect to money, 'Gain all you can

”



# Gain All You Can

"Gain all you can, by common sense, by using in your

.

you may make the best of all that is in your hands."

# Save All You Can

“Having gained all you can, by honest wisdom and

pleasure of tasting..there is a regular, reputable kind

# Save all you can

"Lay out nothing to gratify the pride of life, to gain the  
of men..."

'So long as thou dost  
well unto thyself, men will speak good of thee.' ..no

that cometh from God."

# Give All You Can

"Having first gained all you can, and secondly saved all

...

faithful and wise steward, ...first provide things needful

—

left, then 'do good to them that are of the household of faith.'"

# Give All You Can

"It is allowed, (1), that we are to provide the necessaries

the sight of all men, so to 'owe no man anything'. But to  
flatly forbidden."

# What have we learned?

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# What Have We Learned?

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# Basic Principles

## Judaism

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# Catholicism

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# United Methodist (Wesley)

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# Troubling Scripture

# History of American Compassion



# Early America

"If a man shall not work, he shall not eat."

*Governing Principle: Protection of a Fragile  
Work Ethic*

## A Continuing Recognition That Personal Involvement Was Necessary

"The importance of personal involvement of rich and poor was still stressed year after year. ... Cities were growing

economic backgrounds."

" ...it was important to impregnate American Society with

"

# Recognition of Damages Accrued From Indiscriminate Distributions

"...to give to one who begs ...or in any way to supersede

...

and should do good."

*The Tragedy of American Compassion*, Marvin Olasky, p. 19, 21.

"Those who gave material aid without requiring even their backs on neighbors and brothers."



## General preference for in-kind gifts rather than money

" ...the societies agreed that relief should be given only after a 'personal examination of each case,' and 'not in money, but in the necessities required in the case.'"

## Work Houses and Poor Houses

"If any poor person shall refuse to be lodged,  
relief from the overseers during such refusal."

## No Necessity of Equal Amounts of Alms Across Individuals

"Social thought of this period did not insist on  
unavoidable problems."

## Limitations of Charity to Only Those in Need A Difficult Task

"...charity societies could agree that alms 'should not be  
drunkard ...may be without food ...and wholly innocent in  
...

us the light of his counsel and example."

# Evidence from Writings Among Foreign Visitors

"The Traveller's

residence in American, I saw but one beggar...One

another."

*Two Years' Residence in the New Settlements of Ohio,*

# Measureable Successes Among Charities in the 1800s

"...one charity group over eight years raised '4,500 independence, without alms..another handful of noble women..accomplished what no machinery of government

"  
.

# A Continuing Quest for Relief to be Temporary

subsidized to feel guilty. 'The stigma which

."

# *Seven Seals of Good Philanthropic Practice*

**Affiliation**

**Bonding**

**Categorization**

**Discernment**

**Employment**

**Freedom**

**God:** close relationship with one's



# The Decline of Private Charity

# Growing Public Discourse Seeking Government Assumption of Responsibility for the Disadvantaged

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## Early Government Involvement

"Government guarantees were seen as not just the willingness to work but other moral standards also...  
the supply of poverty by ruining attitudes."

# Federal Government Growth in Relief

Children's

# Two-Lesson Summary

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Judaism: man is to continue God's creation, man is to

# Two-Lesson Summary





