

TWO ECONOMIES: GOD'S VS WORLD'S

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The world has an economic system, and God has an economic system.

God's economy does not operate under the same principles as the world's economy. As a matter of fact, God's economy operates exactly the opposite.

The world's economy is based upon assumptions like: wealth brings security; power is important; and this life is all there is.

God's economy is based upon core beliefs like: there is a God who created the universe; security comes from God; generosity is important, and we should make our financial decisions based upon an eternal perspective and the Word of God.

TWO ECONOMIES: GOD'S VS WORLD'S

Many of God's principles do not make sense to the world, but they make a lot of sense to disciples of Jesus Christ.

The world thinks, "why would anyone want to give a portion of their income away? That's foolish!" But those with an eternal perspective know that giving a portion of their income is a wise thing to do!

TWO ECONOMIES: GOD'S VS WORLD'S

WORLD'S ECONOMY

GOD'S ECONOMY

Provision:

Financial Independence

God Is Provider

Financial Security:

Comes from Accumulation

Comes from God

Mindset:

On Earthly Things

On Heavenly Things

Possessions:

100% Mine

100% God's

Problems:

Keep to Self

Give to God

Financial Freedom:

External Circumstances

Internal Peace

Power to Live:

From Own Ability

From Holy Spirit

Talents/Gifts:

Inherited or Developed

God Given

TWO ECONOMIES: GOD'S VS WORLD'S

WORLD'S ECONOMY

GOD'S ECONOMY

Store Treasure?

On Earth

In Heaven

Treasures:

Will Rot and Can Be Stolen

Do Not Rot and Are Safe

Citizenship:

On Earth

In Heaven

Focus:

Me, Mine, Myself

GOD

Who is Served:

Mammon

GOD

View of Debt:

More and More

Less and Less

Perspective:

Worldly/Temporal

Eternal

Standards:

The World

Word of God

TWO ECONOMIES: GOD'S VS WORLD'S

- 1. Acknowledge God owns it all, you are a steward, and one day you will give an account.***
- 2. Give to God first. Begin with the tithe (10 percent).***
- 3. Be a consistent saver.***

TWO ECONOMIES: GOD'S VS WORLD'S

4. *Live within your God-given means.*

5. *Establish clear written financial principles from God's Word.*
 - ❖ *Pay God*
 - ❖ *Pay Yourself*
 - ❖ *Pay Others*

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Two Financial Systems

Here are more ways the two financial systems are different from one another.

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Stewardship Versus Ownership

In the World's system, everyone wants to be an owner. In God's economy, we are all stewards.

1 Corinthians 4:2 (KJV) - *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Stewardship Versus Ownership

Frustration with our finances comes because we are trying to be an owner instead of a steward.

An owner provides, but a steward preserves or manages the assets of the owner.

We have the grace to be stewards, not owners.

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Cursed Versus Blessed

The world's system is cursed and under the power of Satan. It goes back to the fall in the Garden of Eden. Listen to what God said to Adam:

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Cursed Versus Blessed

Genesis 3:17-19 (KJV) - *And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;*

¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Cursed Versus Blessed

That's a pretty serious curse, which makes everything in the world hard to accomplish. Things are hard to get done here because everything we do is actively resisted.

Contrast that path of difficulty with the many blessings listed in the first part of Deuteronomy chapter 28.

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Cursed Versus Blessed

Deuteronomy 28:11-12 (KJV) - *And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee.*

¹² *The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.*

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Buying and Selling Versus Giving and Receiving

In the world's system, things are transferred between people via buying and selling.

In contrast the kingdom of God works on a system of giving and receiving: seed time, and harvest. We see Paul commend the church in Philippi for operating this way:

Philippians 4:15 (KJV) -*Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Buying and Selling Versus Giving and Receiving

Yet receiving is part of giving. When we don't allow ourselves to receive gracefully, we prevent others from being blessed in their giving to us. It's robbing others of their blessing.

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Striving Versus Resting

People constantly are trying to make things happen. Folks like this have a tendency to maneuver and manipulate in their efforts to control the outcome of whatever situation they are in. This approach is particularly obvious in high pressure sales tactics and manipulative offering talks.

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Striving Versus Resting

Ecclesiastes 2:22-23 (KJV) - *For what hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun?*

²³ *For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity.*

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Striving Versus Resting

Contrast that with what Jesus said about how it should be when we follow Him:

Matthew 11:28-30 (KJV) - *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

²⁹ *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

³⁰ *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Striving Versus Resting

Jesus also said that when we seek first the kingdom of God, then all the stuff people in the world chase after will be added to us anyway. So, we no longer have to strive to get ahead. Now we can rest in the finished work of Jesus.

Matthew 6:33 (KJV) - *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Lack Versus Abundance

The world's system is based on lack. In that system, there is always a limited amount of resources and scarcity helps set the value of something. The worldly economy runs on supply and demand. The more in demand something is, the higher price someone can get for selling that thing. Some businesses even put extra effort into creating and maintaining artificial scarcity of their products so that they can get a higher price for each sale.

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Lack Versus Abundance

In contrast, the heavenly system is based on abundance. God is extravagant and blesses His children far over and above what they need so that they can in turn be a blessing to others. John said it this way:

John 1:16 (NIV) - *From His abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.*

John 1:16 (KJV) - *And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.*

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Fear of Loss Versus Generosity

Fear of Loss

The world's economy is driven by a fear of loss. We're told to "save for a rainy day" because even if times are good now, bad times are probably just around the corner. Hoarding is not uncommon, because you just never know what might go wrong, and it's best to be prepared.

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Fear of Loss Versus Generosity

Jesus told a parable with an example of this.

Luke 12:16-21 (KJV) - *Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.*

¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'

¹⁸ So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.'

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Fear of Loss Versus Generosity

Luke 12:19-21 - *And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."*

²⁰ *But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'*

²¹ *"So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Generosity

In contrast, the kingdom of God is powered by generosity. And why wouldn't a kingdom-minded person be generous when God is blessing us out of His abundance?

Not only that, but God promises to return to us that which we give away out of compassion.

Proverbs 19:17 (KJV) - *He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.*

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Need-Based Versus Faith-Based

The world tends to respond to need and route resources based on how much they are needed. In the marketplace, it's referred to as how much something is "in demand." If there is a huge need or demand, for a product or service, then it most likely can be sold profitably.

The kingdom of God does not respond on the basis of our need. Instead God responds on the basis of faith.

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Poverty Versus Prosperity

All of these factors add up to two completely different results. The world's cursed financial system with its striving, buying, and selling, based on lack and fear of loss, and driven by needs is designed to keep people in poverty.

In contrast, the faith-powered financial system in the kingdom of God, based on generosity and abundance, as we rest in God's blessings and participate in giving and receiving, is designed to promote prosperity for those who participate in it.

THE WORLD'S ECONOMY VS THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S ECONOMY

Kingdom Life

When we make the switch to God's system, we then experience the blessings He put in place for us before time began. God is waiting for us to inherit what He set aside for us. We just have to learn the ways of the kingdom and operate in them.