

WHAT ABOUT THE POOR? : PART 1

Copyright 1994 - 2017 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : January 4, 2017

Last Updated : January 4, 2017

Dismal Situation In Washington DC, Washington Should Be A Beacon Of Hope, Demonic Influence In Washington, Millions Of Americans Living In Poverty, Public Assistance Programs, America's Huge Financial Assistance To Foreign Governments, Broken Health Care System, Deteriorating Education System, Crumbling Nationwide Infrastructure, If The Money Was Spent At Home, Doubts Regarding Trump's Resolve To Fulfill Campaign Promises, Incoming Republican Administration Will Hurt Poor Sick And Elderly Americans, U.S. Government Garnishing The Incomes Of Elderly Americans Due To Default On College Loans, My Childhood Family Situation, My Dad Goes Deep Into Debt Due To A College Loan, Washingtonian Politicians, Worse Than An Infidel, Ancient Israel Was Morally/Legally Required By God To Care For Its Poor, God Condemns Selfish Israelites For Not Helping Poor, God's Compassion And Desire For The Oppressed

Just a few minutes ago I opened one of my daily email news bundles, and I was met with one headline which states "D.C. Homelessness Doubles National Average as Living Costs Soar". This article begins by stating the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Record housing prices are cited as one cause leaving students and working class people with nowhere to turn but an overburdened shelter system."

----- End Quote -----

My friends, even though I have known for a very long time that these kinds of sad things occur in the United States of America, nevertheless, just reading that piece of information fills me with a certain level of anger and disgust. America -- meaning the U.S.A. -- is one of the richest nations in the

world. Now, I will not debate to what degree that statement holds true, because I really don't know with certainty. But I imagine that it could easily be found out, just by conducting some degree of online research regarding GNPs and GDPs; that is, Gross National Products and Gross Domestic Products. But actually, it really doesn't matter, insofar as the point I wish to make here.

That point is this: I find this news absolutely and utterly shameful, embarrassing, deplorable, morally reprehensible, and non-defensible. It is bad enough that it occurs in other parts of the country, but to also occur in the very nation's capital -- a place that is supposed to represent an example, be a shining light, and offer hope to the rest of the nation, as well as to the rest of the world -- is just beyond words. I can't do the subject justice.

The truth of the matter -- as I have mentioned a number of times before, and as some of you already no doubt know -- is that the U.S. capital is a very dark, oppressive place where demonic forces have clearly taken hold. After all, national capitals is where devils and demons like to control people the most, and they do. Maybe such jobs are reserved for the top demons, and not underlings. Who knows.

As many of you will also know, for many years now, I have voiced my concerns regarding the plight of the poor in the U.S.A. As far as I am concerned, considering how much money the United States has in its possession, not one single individual should have to live below the poverty level. Yet we all know that this is far from the truth. Millions of Americans do in fact live in extreme poverty, and would in fact be starving, homeless and maybe even dead, if it were not for the meager handouts that are given through different government assistance programs such as Welfare, SNAP -- aka the Food Stamp program -- WIC, Medicaid, MIP, etc. Even still, what the American government does for its own people is simply not enough. It still remains insufficient, as is evidenced by the aforementioned news article.

I think some of you will already know where I am coming from with my previous statements, because I have talked about it before. Every single year, the U.S. government collectively gives literally billions and billions of dollars and military assistance to pro-American nations around the world. They

basically amount to bribes and vehicles to ensure loyalty and friendship to the United States, if we really get right down to it. Billions, my friends. Of course, I bet you already know who some of the chief beneficiaries are: nations such as Israel and Egypt. And then some of those nations who receive financial assistance from the United States, turn around and stab America in the back. When will U.S. politicians ever learn?

The American health care system is broken. The so-called "Obamacare" plan seemed to be working at first, at least on the surface; but now reports are coming out regarding rising and unaffordable premiums and other issues. Public education is likewise broken, and has been broken for many years. Kids today are coming out of school and college dumber and dumber, and some of them talk dumber and dumber as well. They seem to think that life is a reality TV show, and the most important thing is to follow the lives of celebrities, while they play on their mobile phones all day. No, I am not suggesting that all kids are like that, but there is no doubt that the level and quality of education in modern America has dropped by a significant level. It has also become much more liberal, to the concern of many Christian parents.

The nationwide infrastructure is also old, broken and slowly crumbling. Everything is slowly but surely breaking down, yet the US government still makes sure that it feeds the foreign wolves, while its very own people suffer. On top of that, as you may well already know, many people breath polluted air, eat tainted food, and drink contaminated water. The tragedy in Flint, Michigan comes to mind. This is in America, folks. This is not in some far-flung poor, Third World/developing nation that is ruled by a dictator, where you might expect these sorts of things to happen. It is downright shameful.

Just imagine how much better off so many Americans would be, if those same billions of dollars were spent here at home, instead of feeding all of those wolves abroad. Just think of how many American lives could be improved. Think of how many people would be off of the street, not living in shelters, not waiting for the next handout from some government agency.

Considering his own background as a part of the very elite himself, I truly wonder if President-elect Donald Trump will really do anything about this grave national problem. He says

that he wants to make America great again. It was and is a great political slogan, but will Mr. Trump actually translate that slogan into real actions on the ground? It is hard for a leopard to change his spots, or a tiger its stripes. I have mentioned before that I am very concerned about the incoming administration. While I agree with some of Mr. Trump's policy ideas, still, there are other areas where I think he and his Republican cohorts are actually very capable of hurting the poor, the sick and the elderly, as they have always done in the past. After all, many of them are already sold out to Big Business interests such as coal, oil, tobacco, etc. They will do whatever keeps them in power, and maintains money in their pocket, and that includes Mr. Trump.

If you want to know exactly how ruthless and cold-blooded the U.S. government can be, consider the fact that just the other day, I read a news article which left me shocked. It stated that Uncle Sam is now garnishing pay checks, pensions, Social Security and other forms of income, because so many elderly Americans have defaulted in paying back their college loans. Furthermore, the money that is being garnished, is not being used to actually pay back the loan itself, but rather to pay down on the interest of that loan. In other words, these old people are being forced to live on even less than they now have, and many of them will probably never be completely out of debt; not even after they are dead.

My friends, this is not fanciful fiction. It is simple fact. I have mentioned before that I come from a very poor family. My dad was not college-educated, and he and mom married at an early age. As was normal back then, my mom was a typical stay-home mother. But because of his lack of education, my dad was a laborer and low wage earner. We didn't have a lot, but our basic needs were met. However, because of our weak and precarious financial situation, none of us siblings ever went to college. However, in later years, after I had already left home, I acquired a half-brother. My dad was apparently determined that he at least would be given the opportunity to acquire a college education.

Well, to make a long story short, it is my understanding that my half-brother insisted on going to the best, well-heeled college in town. Even though there was no possible way that he could afford it, my dad decided to take out a loan, and went into some very serious debt. The last time that he and I

communicated some time ago, he told me that he was still in debt -- no doubt due to the interest just piling up -- and that he would probably die before he ever paid the thing off. At least that is how I recall the conversation going. My dad is now eighty-five. I am sure you see my point.

So as I have clearly demonstrated through the previous story, in many cases, these college loans were taken out by parents for their children, to help those children do better than themselves, and to get ahead in life. Yet that is not what is actually happening. As I said, it is my impression that many students today are getting a half-baked education for an even higher price tag that is killing their parents in a financial sense. Furthermore, if the information I read online a while back is correct, this younger generation -- who they refer to as "millennials" -- will live a quality of life that is even lower than what we enjoyed a few decades ago, if "enjoy" is even the proper word to describe it.

Please note that the shrewd politicians who are behind these kinds of policies and oppressive nonsense, are the very same ones who throw lavish parties in Washington, D.C., and hand out billions of dollars to foreign friendly nations. I have shared a number of times before, a verse which was written by the Apostle Paul, and which clearly expresses my feelings regarding this issue. It states the following:

But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

1 Timothy 5:8, KJV

In that regard, America is an infidel to many of her own people. Again, it is simply shameful. I have mentioned before that God Himself is very concerned regarding the plight of the poor. He wants them to be properly cared for. In fact, as I have shared before, under the Mosaic Law, the ancient nation of Israel was actually required and morally and legally obligated to care for its poor. Consider the following verses where God's requirements are established:

"For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving

him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt."

Deuteronomy 10:17-19, KJV

"At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates: And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest."

Deuteronomy 14:28-29, KJV

"If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth. Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee. Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto. For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land. And if thy brother, an Hebrew man, or an Hebrew woman, be sold unto thee, and serve thee six years; then in the seventh year thou shalt let him go free from thee. And when thou sendest him out free from thee, thou shalt not let him go away empty: Thou shalt furnish him liberally out of thy flock, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winepress: of that wherewith the LORD thy God hath blessed thee thou shalt give unto him. And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day."

Deuteronomy 15:7-15, KJV

"When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to

fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands. When thou beatest thine olive tree, thou shalt not go over the boughs again: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow. When thou gatherest the grapes of thy vineyard, thou shalt not glean it afterward: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow."

Deuteronomy 24:19-21, KJV

"And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God: And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you. When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled; Then thou shalt say before the LORD thy God, I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them:"

Deuteronomy 26:10-13, KJV

Sadly, just as occurs in our modern day, time and time again, this simply did not happen; and it did not happen for the very same reasons that it does not happen today as well. As a result, the poor were left to fend for themselves. Consider some of the harsh words which were spoken and written in both the Old and the New Testaments against the selfish Israelites:

"Yea, ye overwhelm the fatherless, and ye dig a pit for your friend."

Job 6:27, KJV

"Thou hast sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless have been broken."

Job 22:9, KJV

"Why, seeing times are not hidden from the Almighty, do they

that know him not see his days? Some remove the landmarks; they violently take away flocks, and feed thereof. They drive away the ass of the fatherless, they take the widow's ox for a pledge. They turn the needy out of the way: the poor of the earth hide themselves together. Behold, as wild asses in the desert, go they forth to their work; rising betimes for a prey: the wilderness yieldeth food for them and for their children. They reap every one his corn in the field: and they gather the vintage of the wicked. They cause the naked to lodge without clothing, that they have no covering in the cold. They are wet with the showers of the mountains, and embrace the rock for want of a shelter. They pluck the fatherless from the breast, and take a pledge of the poor. They cause him to go naked without clothing, and they take away the sheaf from the hungry; Which make oil within their walls, and tread their winepresses, and suffer thirst. Men groan from out of the city, and the soul of the wounded crieth out: yet God layeth not folly to them. They are of those that rebel against the light; they know not the ways thereof, nor abide in the paths thereof. The murderer rising with the light killeth the poor and needy, and in the night is as a thief. The eye also of the adulterer waiteth for the twilight, saying, No eye shall see me: and disguiseth his face. In the dark they dig through houses, which they had marked for themselves in the daytime: they know not the light. For the morning is to them even as the shadow of death: if one know them, they are in the terrors of the shadow of death. He is swift as the waters; their portion is cursed in the earth: he beholdeth not the way of the vineyards. Drought and heat consume the snow waters: so doth the grave those which have sinned. The womb shall forget him; the worm shall feed sweetly on him; he shall be no more remembered; and wickedness shall be broken as a tree. He evil entreateth the barren that beareth not: and doeth not good to the widow. He draweth also the mighty with his power: he riseth up, and no man is sure of life. Though it be given him to be in safety, whereon he resteth; yet his eyes are upon their ways. They are exalted for a little while, but are gone and brought low; they are taken out of the way as all other, and cut off as the tops of the ears of corn. And if it be not so now, who will make me a liar, and make my speech nothing worth?"

Job 24:1-25, KJV

"Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the

humble. Wherefore doth the wicked contemn God? he hath said in his heart, Thou wilt not require it. Thou hast seen it; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite it with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless. Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil man: seek out his wickedness till thou find none. The LORD is King for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land. LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear: To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may no more oppress."

Psalms 10:12-18, KJV

"LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph? How long shall they utter and speak hard things? and all the workers of iniquity boast themselves? They break in pieces thy people, O LORD, and afflict thine heritage. They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the fatherless. Yet they say, The LORD shall not see, neither shall the God of Jacob regard it."

Psalms 94:3-7, KJV

"How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them."

Isaiah 1:21-23, KJV

"Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed; To turn aside the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless! And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation which shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory?"

Isaiah 10:1-3, KJV

"For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men. As a cage is full of birds, so are their houses full of deceit: therefore they are become great, and waxen rich. They are

waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge. Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"

Jeremiah 5:26-29, KJV

"Behold, the princes of Israel, every one were in thee to their power to shed blood. In thee have they set light by father and mother: in the midst of thee have they dealt by oppression with the stranger: in thee have they vexed the fatherless and the widow . . . In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD. Behold, therefore I have smitten mine hand at thy dishonest gain which thou hast made, and at thy blood which hath been in the midst of thee."

Ezekiel 22:6-7, 12-13, KJV

"Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them. Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock; Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither

shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them."

Ezekiel 34:2-10, KJV

"And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts."

Malachi 3:5, KJV

"Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers . . . Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for YE DEVOUR WIDOWS' HOUSES, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation."

Matthew 23:1-4, 14, KJV

"And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces, And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts: WHICH DEVOUR WIDOWS' HOUSES, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation."

Mark 12:38-40, KJV

"And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers."

Luke 11:46, KJV

"Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts; WHICH DEVOUR WIDOWS' HOUSES, and for a shew make long prayers: the same shall receive greater damnation. And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites.

And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had."

Luke 20:46-21:4, KJV

"Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called? If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:"

James 2:5-8, KJV

To reiterate my earlier point, the following verses clearly reflect the compassion for the poor and the needy that God demands of all of us, beginning with the national governments which clearly possess adequate means to care for their own:

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

James 1:27, KJV

"Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow."

Isaiah 1:16-17, KJV

"For if ye throughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye throughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour; If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt: Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever."

Jeremiah 7:5-7, KJV

"Thus saith the LORD; Go down to the house of the king of Judah, and speak there this word, And say, Hear the word of the LORD, O king of Judah, that sittest upon the throne of David, thou, and thy servants, and thy people that enter in

by these gates: Thus saith the LORD; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place."

Jeremiah 22:1-3, KJV

"Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother: And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart."

Zechariah 7:9-10, KJV

"Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH, and rejoice before him. A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation. God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land."

Psalms 68:4-6, KJV

"Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God: Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever: Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners: The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous: The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down."

Psalms 146:5-9, KJV

"When the ear heard me, then it blessed me; and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me: Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem. I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame. I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out. And I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth."

Job 29:11-17, KJV

"If I have withheld the poor from their desire, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail; Or have eaten my morsel myself alone, and the fatherless hath not eaten thereof; (For from my youth he was brought up with me, as with a father, and I have guided her from my mother's womb;) If I have seen any perish for want of clothing, or any poor without covering; If his loins have not blessed me, and if he were not warmed with the fleece of my sheep; If I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless, when I saw my help in the gate: Then let mine arm fall from my shoulder blade, and mine arm be broken from the bone. For destruction from God was a terror to me, and by reason of his highness I could not endure. If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence; If I rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much; If I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in brightness; And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand: This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above. If I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, or lifted up myself when evil found him: Neither have I suffered my mouth to sin by wishing a curse to his soul. If the men of my tabernacle said not, Oh that we had of his flesh! we cannot be satisfied. The stranger did not lodge in the street: but I opened my doors to the traveller."

Job 31:16-32, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<http://www.billkochman.com>

WHAT ABOUT THE POOR? : PART 2

Copyright 1994 - 2017 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : January 4, 2017

Last Updated : January 4, 2017

Old Testament Laws Regarding Practice Of Charging Interest, Jesus' Describes A Fair Means Of Paying Interest, Modern Greedy Banking Practices, False Accusation That All Public Assistance Program Recipients Are Lazy Bums, Violators Are Usually Caught Eventually and Castigated, Program Violators Are In The Minority, American Families Unable To Survive On Meager Wages Offered By Employers, Unscrupulous Tactics Used By Greedy American Employers, Our Situation Here Is The Same, Valid Reasons Regarding Why Some People End Up On The Public Assistance Programs, Parable Of The Good Samaritan, Selfless Compassion, Humiliation Of Applying For Public Assistance, Modern Online Privacy Concerns, Hackers And Data Breaches, Data Mining And Social Networks, Personal Privacy Becomes Nonexistent When One Applies For Public Assistance Programs, Provide The Information Fully And On Time Or No To Benefits, Fear And Intimidation Used To Keep Benefit Recipients Honest, Fiscal Belt-Tightening Equals Kicking More Folks Out Of The Programs, Networked Computer Systems Allow For Personal Info Cross-Checking To Mitigate Fraud, Loose Security At Certain Agencies, Some People Find It More Practical And Pragmatic To Survive On Public Assistance Than To Accept Part-Time Minimum Wage Job, Situation So Bad That College-Educated Kids Forced To Flip Hamburgers, Depressing And Embarrassing Situation For Them, No Fruit To Show For Their Efforts, The American Dream?, Frustration Of Coming Up Empty-Handed, Glowing Government Job Reports, A College Education Is Now Barely Enough To Get In The Door, Scheme To Discourage College-Educated American Kids

What you may also find rather interesting is the fact that the Mosaic Law, and the Prophets, strongly condemned the practice of usury -- that is, charging interest -- between the different tribes of Israel. Applying interest on a loan was viewed as a selfish, greedy practice. Only to foreigners was it permitted to charge interest, which is why in one of the verses below it says "Unto a stranger thou mayest lend upon usury". It is in fact through this greedy practice of charging interest to the Gentile world, that the Jews have enriched themselves for millennia now.

"If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury."

Exodus 22:25, KJV

"And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee. Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee. Thou shalt not give him thy money upon usury, nor lend him thy victuals for increase."

Leviticus 25:35-37, KJV

"Thou shalt not lend upon usury to thy brother; usury of money, usury of victuals, usury of any thing that is lent upon usury: Unto a stranger thou mayest lend upon usury; but unto thy brother thou shalt not lend upon usury: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all that thou settest thine hand to in the land whither thou goest to possess it."

Deuteronomy 23:19-20, KJV

"And there was a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brethren the Jews. For there were that said, We, our sons, and our daughters, are many: therefore we take up corn for them, that we may eat, and live. Some also there were that said, We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn, because of the dearth. There were also that said, We have borrowed money for the king's tribute, and that upon our lands and vineyards. Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children: and, lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and some of our daughters are brought unto bondage already: neither is it in our power to redeem them; for other men have our lands and vineyards. And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words. Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto them, Ye exact usury, every one of his brother. And I set a great assembly against them. And I said unto them, We after our ability have redeemed our brethren the Jews, which were sold unto the heathen; and will ye even sell your brethren? or shall they be sold unto us? Then held they their peace, and found nothing to answer. Also I said, It is not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies? I likewise, and my brethren, and my servants, might exact of them money and corn: I pray you, let us leave off this usury. Restore, I pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their

oliveyards, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money, and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that ye exact of them. Then said they, We will restore them, and will require nothing of them; so will we do as thou sayest. Then I called the priests, and took an oath of them, that they should do according to this promise. Also I shook my lap, and said, So God shake out every man from his house, and from his labour, that performeth not this promise, even thus be he shaken out, and emptied. And all the congregation said, Amen, and praised the LORD. And the people did according to this promise."

Nehemiah 5:1-13, KJV

"He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved."

Psalms 15:5, KJV

"He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor."

Proverbs 28:8, KJV

"But if a man be just, and do that which is lawful and right, And hath not eaten upon the mountains, neither hath lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, neither hath defiled his neighbour's wife, neither hath come near to a menstruous woman, And hath not oppressed any, but hath restored to the debtor his pledge, hath spoiled none by violence, hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment; He that hath not given forth upon usury, neither hath taken any increase, that hath withdrawn his hand from iniquity, hath executed true judgment between man and man, Hath walked in my statutes, and hath kept my judgments, to deal truly; he is just, he shall surely live, saith the Lord GOD. If he beget a son that is a robber, a shedder of blood, and that doeth the like to any one of these things, And that doeth not any of those duties, but even hath eaten upon the mountains, and defiled his neighbour's wife, Hath oppressed the poor and needy, hath spoiled by violence, hath not restored the pledge, and hath lifted up his eyes to the idols, hath committed abomination, Hath given forth upon usury, and hath taken increase: shall he then live? he shall not live: he hath done all these abominations; he shall surely die; his blood shall be upon him. Now, lo, if he beget a son, that

seeth all his father's sins which he hath done, and considereth, and doeth not such like, That hath not eaten upon the mountains, neither hath lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, hath not defiled his neighbour's wife, Neither hath oppressed any, hath not withholden the pledge, neither hath spoiled by violence, but hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment, That hath taken off his hand from the poor, that hath not received usury nor increase, hath executed my judgments, hath walked in my statutes; he shall not die for the iniquity of his father, he shall surely live."

Ezekiel 18:5-17, KJV

"In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD."

Ezekiel 22:12, KJV

In total contrast to the previous verses which condemn this greedy form of usury in which one person enriched himself at the expense of another, in the New Testament, in the Parable of the Ten Talents, Jesus describes money exchangers -- brokers or bankers -- who paid people interest as a reward for depositing their money in their bank. This is how banks are supposed to operate. However, sadly, banks have become extremely greedy, and the interest rate that is paid on bank deposits is extremely low. In fact, with some accounts, it's even totally non-existent. Furthermore, many banks charge a fee for just about every extra service they provide to their banking clients. It never used to be that way. It is greed.

"His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury."

Matthew 25:26-27, KJV

"And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine

own with usury?"

Luke 19:22-23, KJV

Now, we all know that the plight of the poor in America is a very complicated issue, and there are many different facets to it. I won't pretend to know and understand them all. But I do understand a large part of it, I believe. For example, one very harsh criticism which I have often read online -- and it is written by people who obviously are not suffering in any way themselves -- is that many people do not work, simply because they don't want to work, and because they are just lazy. This is indeed true to some degree. The currently available public assistance programs are such, that a shrewd person can use the system to their own advantage, and thus acquire benefits to which they are not legally entitled. It is also a fact that some recipients use their benefits, or their cards, in manners which are not consistent with these programs rules and guidelines.

However, it should also be noted that many of these people are eventually caught, and castigated with harsh penalties due to their intentional fraud and dishonesty. In most cases, this means that they're kicked out of that particular program for a year or longer. Repeated offenses may lead to fines, incarceration, and being permanently disqualified from said program. Three strikes and they are out completely.

However, at the same time, it is simply not fair or right to self-righteously categorize all public assistance recipients as lazy bums who refuse to work, and who are just milking the system for all that it is worth. In fact, according to what I have read online, the percentage of actual offenders is quite small compared to the overall number of individuals who receive some form of public assistance. While some of you may not know this, the truth of the matter is that some people choose not to work, not because they are lazy by any means, but because they and their families cannot possibly survive on the meager wages -- and/or on the terrible hours -- which are now being offered by potential employers in the United States.

In other words, stated another way, they can better make ends meet by accepting help from public assistance programs, than by working at a minimum wage job which offers terrible hours. If this is their situation, I cannot say that I blame

them very much. People need to eat. They also need to pay their bills -- including expensive medical bills -- such as rent and monthly utilities. Then there is clothes, household needs, school supplies, and other unexpected expenses which may arise at any time.

If an employer insists on paying minimum wage, only hires part-time, escapes paying overtime because he only hires part-time, and likewise escapes being obligated to offer medical or dental insurance, or both, for the very same reason -- that is, because he only hires part-time -- then what is a person supposed to do? In some cases, they don't have a lot of options to choose from, so they are forced to turn to public assistance programs.

The exact same situation exists here where I live as well. This is how many local businesses operate. It is all about the profit margin and their greed. I have seen it for years firsthand. Our local economy is very depressed here. Add to that the fact that the local government has borrowed and borrowed and borrowed. It is majorly in debt, and for the most part bankrupt. I bet many of you are experiencing the very same kinds of things in your local situations as well. These are not isolated incidents. My readers in other nations are probably experiencing the very same things as well, and it is for a reason. Can you say globalization and greed?

So what is a man who needs to support a wife and children supposed to do? Or what about the mother or father who suddenly finds themselves without a working spouse, and is left with all the children? What about people who suddenly find themselves without a job for a while, because due to bad business decisions, the company they worked for had to downsize, or else belly up and face bankruptcy? Or what if an unanticipated medical emergency arrives which leaves a family flat broke? What if, God forbid, their house burns down and they are left with nothing, or a tornado, typhoon or hurricane blows through, and they lose everything? What about the sick, the disabled and the elderly who are not able to work? Are we just supposed to say "Tough luck!" to them as we sneer at them in our self-righteous manner? Do I need to remind you that this is how those hypocrites reacted upon finding the beaten up man on the road to the city of Jericho? Let me share those verses with you:

"And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise."

Luke 10:27-37, KJV

So as they say, love loves the unlovely. The Samaritan went beyond the call of duty. He did more than what was asked or expected of him, without regard to how much helping that poor man would put a dent in his own personal finances. He didn't even think about it. He didn't charge the beaten man \$75.00 an hour for his services, or anything else. He didn't say, "Now, you come and work for me so that you can pay back the debt that you owe me for helping you." He didn't charge that poor beaten up man interest so that the man would die still being in debt to the Samaritan. He didn't brag about having helped a poor man on the side of the road. He just did what he felt he should do, motivated by real love, and that was the end of it. He practiced selfless compassion. In other words, he wasn't concerned with what was in it for himself, or how he might profit from the situation. What a difference we see in the world today!

At any rate, I am just providing a few examples here so that

hard-nosed, judgmental, self-righteous people -- such as the ones whose comments I have seen online -- can see that not everyone ends up on public assistance programs because they are lazy bums. There are some very valid reasons for people to get on these various programs. How are they supposed to manage with the kind of crappy job I described a minute ago? Obviously, they cannot. In many cases, the pragmatic choice is to humble oneself, and to accept the help of such public assistance programs. And my friends, in case you were given the wrong impression, let me inform you that because many people are forced to accept public assistance against their will, it is a very humiliating and humbling experience. It's a blow to that individual's pride. Furthermore, they are basically making a public confession, and demonstrating that they are unable to survive on their own. So it is not as easy to apply for such programs as some of you may think.

But that is not all by any means. You all know how personal online privacy and security has become a very major issue with many people; particularly now that so many companies have been hacked, sensitive personal information stolen by the millions, put on buyers lists, and sold to the highest bidder. Add to that the unbelievable amount of personal data mining that is done by online companies -- particularly by the social networks -- and with good reason, so many people have become concerned. It is not surprising then that there are a number of organizations which in fact have been formed to safeguard personal privacy, although I really don't know how much I trust them either. As far as I am concerned, huge amounts of extremely personal data stored anywhere online is at risk. In fact, for the record, I likewise don't trust or use cloud backup services, proxy servers, a TOR browser, or anything else.

So what am I leading up to with the previous comments? Well, when it comes to public assistance programs, there is no such thing as personal privacy anymore. An applicant is required to reveal -- and to constantly keep updated -- many personal aspects of their life. This included the precise composition of their families, all forms of income, where they live -- the exact street address -- as well as their mailing address, birthdates of all household members, social security numbers of all household members, marital status, telephone numbers, bank accounts and current amounts in them, vehicles, homes, lands and other properties owned, employment history, etc.

Furthermore, a potential recipient doesn't just have to do it once and be done with it. If they are accepted into a particular assistance program, they also have to go in for periodic renewal appointments in order to keep whatever benefits they are receiving. Depending on their personal situation, this is usually once every six months, or once a year, for each program in which they participate. And, they need to make sure that all of their documents are in order and updated accordingly.

It is really a lot of personal information to turn over to a government entity, which, of course, they store on computers along with the data of millions of other people as well. It can really make one feel uncomfortable that Big Brother knows every single thing about your life. And, if a recipient fails to keep all of that information updated in a timely manner, they will suffer the consequences through either a temporary or permanent suspension from that particular program. That is how tough those government agencies can be. They do not just dole out public assistance as easily or as quickly as some of you may possibly think. I will have more to say regarding this particular aspect of these programs near the end of this series.

Furthermore, one tactic these government agencies will use to strike fear into the hearts of public assistance recipients, is to publish articles in the local newspaper, in which they inform the public regarding how many people have been kicked out of the programs, as well as why they were kicked out. In the times I have seen such reports, it has usually been a few dozen people, or more, at a time. Now, they don't name actual names, of course -- at least not yet -- but their objective is obviously achieved. They are relying upon intimidation and fear to enforce program compliance. Also, my observation is that the agencies which run these various assistance programs are tightening their fiscal belts by looking for every legal reason in the book to kick as many people as possible out of the programs; even if it is for a minor, and perhaps even innocent, infraction of a particular program's rules. My sense is that their actions are due to pressure from the federal government, and I expect it to get worse.

Let me also inform you that in more recent years, a lot of government agencies' computers have been linked via networks,

so that they now possess the ability to share personal data between themselves regarding any particular client. This, of course, greatly reduces the potential for fraud; because if an individual is reporting something at one agency, but they are reporting something very different at another, they will eventually discover it, and that spells trouble for that person.

So now you know the price that public assistance recipients must be willing to pay, if they want to qualify for, as well as keep, their public assistance. That is what I would call government hardball. Would you do it if you suddenly found yourself in a very needful situation, and you had no other alternatives for providing for yourself and your family? It might not be quite so bad if said recipients could have the confidence of knowing that their sensitive personal info is being kept private and secure. Sadly, that is not always the case. Some case workers and other office employees can be very loose with their tongue at times. Furthermore, they can accidentally leave things lying around, such as leaving personal documents in the copy machine for prying eyes to discover, and other such things. I don't know how often such incidents occur, but it is worth mentioning here.

Given what I have shared with you here, I hope that you can now see how bad the situation has become in America. If a person can survive better -- and I do mean just survive and live rather frugally -- by accepting public assistance, than by working at a real paying job, something is seriously wrong somewhere. I dare say that some of you who are reading this series will already know where I am heading with this line of thought. If not, read on.

Let me also add -- in case you are not already aware of it -- that there are many qualified people who have at least one college degree or more, who really want to work, and who are eager to work at a good-paying job, but they just cannot seem to be able to land that particular job for a variety of reasons. One of those reasons I will be discussing in just a minute. Now, a number of times over the years, I have heard or read accounts about bright, college-educated kids who are flipping hamburgers, because that is the only kind of job they were able to acquire. What?!

Imagine how that makes them feel after spending those many

thousands of dollars to improve their education and skill set, and investing another two, four or more years of their life to get that education, and then end up in a place like McDonalds. It must be very depressing, and perhaps downright embarrassing for them, because they have nothing to show for their hard efforts. It was preached to them for many years by their parents, that if they received a so-called "higher education", all would be well. They would eventually embrace the "American Dream", whatever that is. Well, if working at a fast-food joint is now the "American Dream", we are in very serious trouble.

Yes, my friends, we are indeed in serious trouble, no doubt about it. It really makes you wonder what is going on, and how and why America's personal incentive program has failed so miserably for such people. They took the initiative. They invested extra years of their lives, their money, their hard work and effort. They sacrificed. Maybe they even shed some tears during the long process. And, as I mentioned earlier, there is a good chance that they went deep into debt as well. They played by the rules, and yet they have still come up empty-handed. Just imagine the frustration they must feel.

Before moving on, let me bring up another thing which has bothered me for a while now. I'm talking about those glowing job reports that the government issues now and then in order to convince us of what a great job they are doing, and how they are so much better than the previous administration. I for one do not just blindly accept what they say. In fact, the big question that always enters my mind whenever they pat themselves on the back by issuing those reports is this: How many of those jobs are part-time, minimum wage jobs which do not provide a real living wage for individuals with families to support?

If it is just more of the same old same old, like the job I described to you earlier, then such jobs only benefit high school teenagers and such who don't have a lot of financial responsibilities yet. Those kinds of part-time, no-benefits jobs are for teens who still live with their parents, and who just want some spending cash for the weekends, and not much more. Such jobs are certainly not nearly enough for a working father or mother with children who has to pay their own rent and everything else with their job income alone.

You know, a few days ago I was on another website. I don't recall now if it was a news website, or a business website, or what. I apparently followed a link there. At any rate, there was this discourse in which the author of said piece said something which left me in shock. The entire attitude of the piece was really quite cold, in my view. Basically, the writer tore down, or I would say at least minimized, the importance of acquiring a college education. If I recall correctly, in so many words, this individual said that if a person wanted to get ahead in life -- that is, acquire a good job with a decent salary and benefits such as medical, dental, paid vacation and all the rest -- then expecting a great job just because one has a degree or two under his belt was overstepping and being unrealistic.

This writer went on to say that even with a college degree of some kind, a potential employee should still expect to start on the bottom rung of the ladder, working as a lowly grunt in the company that hires him. He should not expect to make significant progress in that company for years. He had to prove himself first, and invest his time and his life in that company. Now, of course I can agree with some of what that writer was stating. As we all know, a new employee is basically on probation, and does need to prove himself, and advancement does come with time as he learns the ropes and improves his skill set with that company, and becomes more of a valuable asset to that company.

Nevertheless, his comments just didn't sit right with me. In other words, the reason why a person invests so much money, time, energy and years in getting a better education, is so that they do not have to start out at the very bottom once they move into the actual job market. The purpose of their college education is so that they have some advantage over other potential employees -- such as those people who just have a high school diploma, for example -- and so they can start out higher up on the wage scale when they do begin working. If the value of a college education has dropped so low now, that it barely obtains an individual a full-time job, and barely helps them to get in ahead of a high school graduate, then in my view, even more so, it reveals how very broken the American job market has become.

But to be honest, I think that this fact reveals something even more important than that, and it has to do with the

attitude of modern business people, many of whom already see their employees as simply pawns in their game, and personal pursuit for ultimate wealth. I just got the impression that the aforementioned writer seemed to want to knock down the traditional perspective. He seemed bent on intentionally trying to lower expectations, and to almost discourage some college-educated American job seekers. It was as if his goal was to change the narrative from what it has always been.

I thought about what I had read for a few minutes, and then what occurred to me is the following. If that was actually that writer's objective, why would he do it? What was his ultimate goal? Why would he want to discourage and lower the expectations of home-grown college-educated kids? Now ask yourself this: Who would benefit from such a thing? I will now tell you what I think, and this is just my personal opinion, but I think it rings of truth. I suspect that the underlying message may have actually been "We don't really want to hire college-educated, American kids." What?!

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<http://www.billkochman.com>

WHAT ABOUT THE POOR? : PART 3

Copyright 1994 - 2017 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : January 4, 2017

Last Updated : January 4, 2017

Big Business Corruption And Greed, Two Tactics: Imported Cheap Foreign Workers, Overseas Production Facilities, No Room For Home-Grown American-Educated College Kids, Work For As Much As An Immigrant Or Don't Get Hired, False Claim That There's No Skilled Workers In USA So We Must Hire Immigrant Workers, "Market Forces" Or Selfish Business Decisions Made By Selfish Business Owners, Global Filipino Cheap Labor Pool,

Emma Lazarus' New Colossus Excerpt On Statue Of The Liberty, American Compassion Towards Foreigners Or Cheap Labor Force?, Things Are Not Always What They Seem, Political Deception, Big Business Doublespeak And Half-Truths, It Is Impossible To Support A Family With Just A Minimum Wage Part-Time Job, A Family With One Full-Time Minimum Wage Earner Still Needs Public Assistance, Give Us A Living Wage Not A Minimum Wage, Don't Muzzle The Ox When He Treadeth Out The Corn, College Graduates Deserve More Than Just Minimum Wage From The Start, Resistance From Business Owners And The Usual Arguments And Excuses, Fear Of A Financial Crisis Which Never Materialized, I Am Familiar With Real Poverty, I Understand Why People Try To Enter The USA Illegally In Order To Escape Poverty, USA Cannot Help Every Single Poor Individual In The World, When Available Resources Are Strained Someone Starts Hurting, Less Demanding Job Seeker Acquires The Job, Respecting Border And Labor Laws, Americans Can't Illegally Cross Over Into Mexico And Work There, Take The Risk And Pay The Consequences Even If Children Are Involved, Using Immigrant Children As A Legal Advantage, In The Scriptures Children Sometimes Had To Pay For The Sins Of Their Parents, Illegal Immigrants Overtax The Systems And Programs Put In Place To Help American Citizens, Guilt Lies With Corrupt Business Owners Who Hire Illegals In Order To Save Money, Mexico's Wall On Its Southern Border, Be Cautious About Visiting Mexico, Christian Compassion Yes But There Is Only So Much We Can Do As A Nation, USA Is Not The World's Babysitter Or Dumping Ground For Undesirables, It Is The Responsibility Of Foreign Governments To Meet The Needs Of Their Citizens, Foreigners Need To Fix Their Own Nations And Governments Instead Of Just Running To America For Jobs, Price Of Meddling: Ugly Mess America Left In Iraq

I think that one of the biggest problems which contributes to the current job situation in the United States is simply corruption and greed on the part of the Big Business sector. I am talking about the popular practice of importing cheap, foreign labor -- such as H-2 workers -- as well as companies moving their production facilities overseas where they can exploit foreign workers who earn a mere pittance per hour, working under very poor conditions, in what are typically described as "sweat shops". Through a combination of these two very questionable practices, American corporations -- such as Apple, Nike, and many others -- are able to maintain

their product quotas, while at the same keeping a very hefty profit margin.

In such a scenario, there is not much room for home-grown, American-educated college kids who expect and demand to earn a decent living wage, and who expect a return on all of the money, time, energy and sacrifice that they invested in order to obtain a better education, so that they could get a better job. So how do all of these selfish and greedy companies deal with this problem? How about by changing the narrative, and intentionally lowering the expectations of American workers? In other words, "If you aren't willing to work for the same amount that we can pay this immigrant foreign worker, then we will just hire him instead of you." True or not? I bet some of you reading this have experienced this very thing.

But that is not all. It get worse. They have to cover their greed and deception, so they try to cloak it in decency and spin a yarn which, quite frankly, I don't believe for one single minute. In fact, what I am going to tell you is the very same excuse that is used here where I live as well. It goes something like this: "We need to let in all of these foreign workers, because they have the skill set that we require."

Say what?! You are trying to tell me that although there are literally piles of highly educated college kids -- now young adults -- born and raised in America who are just clamoring for good-paying jobs -- and more of them become available each and every year -- you still have to hire some guy from India? Give me a break! I don't buy it! I am willing to bet that the Indian fellow is just willing to work for a lot less, because the pay scale in his own country is probably worth crap. Thus, what they are offering to pay him in the USA -- even though it is substantially less than what they would have to pay an actual American -- seems like a really good deal to that immigrant. And this is probably true for all of the other foreign workers who are allowed into the United States each year as well, such as Filipinos, Mexicans, etc.

Please note that I mean absolutely no disrespect to any of these nationalities. I am simply trying to paint a clear, honest picture of the situation as I personally see it, so that my readers can understand what I believe is really

going on, and why the U.S. job market is in the current dismal state that it is in. Blaming it on so-called "market forces" is ludicrous. There are actual human beings behind every business decision that is made in the United States. It is not some invisible, uncontrollable economic force that holds us hostage. Selfish business decisions are made by selfish and greedy business leaders and owners.

On a side note, let me add that in my online experience over the years -- particularly since I joined Facebook -- I have come to realize that there are in fact Filipinos living all over the world; particularly in places such as the Middle East. I thought about that a bit, and I arrived at the same conclusion as to why there are so many Filipinos here where I live as well. It is because they are cheap labor; at least cheaper than the local labor force. Many of them will do anything to escape the poverty of their own country, and I suppose I really can't blame them for wanting to do so.

In my opinion, the same holds true with America's Mexican immigrant problem. Many of you will know that the Democrats try to spin their open-the-floodgates-to-everyone policy as a demonstration of American compassion. Quite frankly, I do not think that is it at all, anymore than the Statue of Liberty's call to foreigners is about American compassion either. I am of course referring to the excerpt from Emma Lazarus' sonnet, "New Colossus", which states the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

----- End Quote -----

Some of you reading this may disagree with me, but I think it has been about cheap foreign labor all along. In the days of her youth, America needed to build up a strong, cheap work force, a strong economy, a strong military, etc. After all, she was vulnerable at the time. So the "New Colossus" excerpt was the perfect call to acquire such things. It was basically an employment tactic simply disguised as American compassion, just like politicians continue to do today as

well with their extremely liberal immigration policies. It is no different, in my view, than America going to fight a war in a foreign nation, under the guise of taking freedom and democracy to that nation, when the real motivations are something entirely different. By the way, are you still impressed by the freedom and democracy that the George W. Bush administration introduced to Iraq? Exactly my point.

If there is one thing I have learned in this life, it is that things are not always what they seem in this deceptive world of ours where the rich rule over the poor. You would be wise to learn this important lesson too. There is always an ulterior motive just hidden from view. If politicians say one thing, you should probably look elsewhere for the truth.

Allow me to give you another example of what I view as this deceptive doublespeak. I've heard it said that some of these greedy corporations try to justify their action of hiring so much foreign labor, by claiming that they do so -- aside from their other claim that there is no home-grown skill for the job so they really have no choice -- because Americans refuse to take the jobs. You see, that is another half-truth. What they don't tell you is why Americans don't want to take some of those jobs.

I already gave you the answer earlier in this series. Many Americans simply cannot support their families adequately with a part-time minimum wage job. It is totally impossible without supplemental help from public assistance programs, or without some financial help from rich relatives. Now, if anyone tries to tell you otherwise, either they are simply totally ignorant of the facts on the ground, or else they are outright lying to you for whatever their reasons.

Furthermore, even if the job seeker does acquire a full-time job, if that job only pays minimum wage, or if it does not include medical and dental benefits, it still leaves them in basically the same position in a financial sense. Even if there is something left after paying the rent and utilities, expensive medical bills will quickly gobble up what remains. If it is more than a one-child family, forget it. You don't stand a chance even with a full-time minimum wage job; that is, again, unless you humble yourself and apply for public assistance. I am speaking hard, cold facts here, my friends. I am not going to sugar-coat the situation for you the way

that politicians and bogus government reports like to do. Those folks have their heads so high in the clouds that it is unbelievable. They are totally disconnected from the average every day American who often struggles to make ends meet.

Lastly, considering everything that people invested in order to acquire a higher education, contrary to what that writer said, in my view, they certainly deserve to start out at much more than the minimum wage. At the very least, they need an actual living wage -- not minimum wage -- which from what I understand, is at least fifteen dollars an hour now for a single individual. As you may know, that is why there is now such a push in this area to raise the U.S. minimum wage to \$15.00/hour. People want to do better than just being able to barely survive. What is the point of working so hard if they cannot even enjoy the fruits of their labors? Even the Bible supports this concept with such verses as the following:

"Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn."
Deuteronomy 25:4, KJV

"Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?"
1 Corinthians 9:7-9, KJV

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward."
1 Timothy 5:17-18, KJV

Now, I am sure you already know that a lot of businesses are pushing back against this effort. They are doing the very same thing here where I live. They are trying to stoke fear, by saying that if the minimum wage is raised, it will make the situation worse, and it will supposedly just be a vicious cycle. As to the specifics of their arguments -- which are really just to disguise and protect their own greed, in my

view -- smaller, more vulnerable businesses claim that they will be forced to take one or more of the following actions in order to remain financially viable, if the minimum wage were to be raised a significant level:

1. Increase the cost of their products which will hurt the consumer.
2. Pay their employees less.
3. Negate health and dental benefits.
4. Downsize their business so that they can afford to pay the remaining employees more.

Well, to the previous arguments I say this: Here where I live, one of the local politicians has been pushing for a minimum wage increase for several years now. However, his goal is much more modest than \$15.00/hour. He hopes to raise the local minimum wage to \$10.10/hour by January of 2018. However, due to strong opposition from some of the local business community, rather than do it all in one shot as he had initially intended to do, he backed down somewhat, and decided to implement the wage increase incrementally over a period of three years. After the first increment -- which was just under a dollar an hour two years ago -- an economic impact statement was supposed to be drawn up in order to assess the effect of that first wage increase on the local economy.

Well, guess what? That assessment was never done, financing for it was stalled for a very long time, and it is now long overdue with empty promises to get it finalized soon. On top of that, the second wage increment was never implemented last year -- 2016 -- due to that same strong opposition from the business community, who of course will do anything to protect their profit margin. Yet even without an official assessment, there have been other indications which were published in our local newspaper. Following are some of their findings:

1. The unemployment rate is down.
2. The employment rate is slightly up.
3. Last year was our best tourism year ever.
4. DPHSS attributed fewer SNAP and Welfare recipients to the minimum wage increase and reduced unemployment.

In short, all of the dire warnings about financial disaster occurring if the minimum wage were to be raised, came to nought. It was all hyped up nonsense. I would imagine that some of you folks in the U.S. mainland are probably hearing some of the very same negative warnings regarding a wage increase. Each local situation is obviously very different, but I would take what any detractors say with a grain of salt. Fight for what you believe you deserve.

As for us here, due to the above good news, not even a week ago, a majority of our local politicians voted in favor of implementing the long overdue second wage increment in May of this new year, 2017. If the bill is then signed by the governor, local workers will automatically begin earning a minimum wage of \$9.20/hour. Then, next year, it is supposed to go up again by almost another dollar. I don't recall what the governor's position is off hand, but even if he chooses to veto the bill, going by how the vote went this past week, they have enough votes to override the governor's veto.

Before concluding this series, there is another subject on my mind to discuss with you. Depending on your own particular leanings, some of you may possibly form the impression that I am not a very compassionate person, due to my views regarding the presence of illegal immigrant workers in America. If that is your view, allow me to state the following. I understand what it means to be poor. As I noted earlier, I grew up in a rather poor, one-wage-earner, struggling family comprised of five children. I grew up wearing hand-me-downs. To this day, I remain poor -- well below the poverty line income-wise -- based on American standards. Furthermore, I have seen what poverty looks like outside of the continental United States. So I can understand why some people will do whatever they can in order to try to escape it; even engaging in certain risky things, such as illegally crossing into and remaining in the United States, or entering legally, but then staying beyond the valid time that is stamped on their visa.

I also understand what Jesus taught regarding having love and compassion towards those who suffer, and who have less than ourselves, as we discussed earlier in this series. However, it needs to be said that there is another side to this coin. Because of the fact that over three and half decades ago, I lived in Mexico for a period of about six years, and then on

the Tex-Mex border as well for another three years, I will use Mexico, and Mexican immigrants in America, as an example to illustrate my point.

The bottom line is that the United States cannot possibly help every single poor individual in the world, whether they are Mexican, Indian, Filipino, islander from the Caribbean, Syrian or anyone else. There are simply not enough resources to go around; and if those resources are stretched too thin, someone is going to have to pay the price and suffer for it. It is my understanding that this is precisely what seems to be happening right now in the United States. I am not going to sit here and say that it is only because of immigration out of control that so many Americans are now suffering, but I do believe that foreign immigrants are a major factor towards their suffering, and the lack of jobs availability to many American citizens.

As I have already amply explained, because they are willing to work for a lot less than actual American citizens, these immigrants -- legal or illegal -- are pushing these Americans out of the job market, and in certain cases, on to some of these public assistance programs. Whether we're talking about a ditch digger or someone who works in a high tech scientific laboratory, if the immigrant worker has the required skills, and is willing to work for a lot less than an American who has the same skill set, it is highly likely that the foreign worker will be given the job. In my view, this is simply not right. I believe that this is one of the reasons why the message of Donald Trump was so powerful, and why it resonated with so many struggling working class Americans. They were actually living the experience in real time.

So limits, requirements and legal standards must be set, and must be duly observed. International laws regarding borders, labor, etc., must be respected. I can assure you right now that if you, as an American citizen, were to head south over the border into Mexico and were to try to live and work there illegally, they would not hesitate to kick your butt out of their country, and maybe even worse. You could find yourself rotting in some Mexican jail. So why should Americans feel so guilty regarding kicking Mexicans out of the United States if they are also there illegally, and being a constant drain on the nation's resources? If they go to the U.S.A., even with their children, and eventually get caught, whose fault is it

but their own? They were willing to take the risk, so they must also be willing to face the consequences of their illegal actions if and when they are apprehended.

Taking this a step further, if Mexican families intentionally cross over illegally into the United States with pregnant women in tow, because they intend to use those children which will be born later to their legal advantage -- yes, they do this sort of thing -- it is still the same, in my view. In fact, it is despicable that would even do this. As you may already know, in the Bible, God at times laid the sins of the parents on the children as well. The children had to suffer right along with their parents. Consider this group of verses:

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;"
Exodus 20:5, KJV

"The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation."
Numbers 14:18, KJV

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me,"
Deuteronomy 5:9, KJV

"Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified. When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. Then answered all the people, and said, HIS BLOOD BE ON US, AND ON OUR CHILDREN. Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified."
Matthew 27:22-26, KJV

Children or not, those illegal immigrants are still taking jobs away from Americans. They are taking money out of the pockets of Americans. And they are draining resources and services which rightfully belong to legal American citizens first and above all. They are overtaxing the system and all of the safeguards and programs which have been put into place for the benefit of struggling Americans first. We see the very same thing occurring here as well. Yet believe it or not, there isn't much that the local government can do about it, because we do not have control of our own immigration policies. One thing the governor has been doing, is sending home off-islanders who get into serious trouble and wind up in our local corrections facility. He has already sent home quite a few of them.

And actually, this applies to legal immigrants as well. In other words, as I noted earlier, their job competition and willingness to work at cheaper rates is hurting Americans. So legal or illegal immigrant, it really doesn't make much of a difference insofar as how it affects job availability to bona fide, home grown American citizens.

Let me reiterate a point that I made earlier. Guilt does not lay alone on the shoulders of these immigrants. It also lays on the backs of the unscrupulous American business people who are willing to hire them, in order to save some money, and to maintain their profit margin, at the expense of the cheaper labor. In short, it is these corrupt and dishonest business owners who in fact encourage and support this huge influx of foreign workers. As long as they leave the door open, the foreigners will just keep on coming. Period. No doubt about it. My gosh, even Hollywood stars have been caught employing illegal immigrants as maids, gardeners and such.

By the way, as many of you will have already heard by now, and as even the President-elect mentioned, I believe, Mexico has erected a wall on its southern border with Guatemala for very similar reasons. So isn't it a bit hypocritical to even complain about Mr. Trump's intentions to work towards a more secure southern U.S. border, when the Mexican government has done the very same thing to protect its citizens? Does not that amount to practicing a double standard? Why is it so permissible for Mexico to protect its own with a border wall while concerned Americans are condemned for desiring to take

similar action for similar reasons?

On a side note, I honestly don't recommend that you travel to Mexico anyway. If news reports are to be believed, it's a lot more dangerous in that country now than it was when I visited and lived there so many years ago. There is a lot more crime, a lot more violence, more powerful drug cartels, more thugs willing to rob tourists on the highways, etc. You visit that country at your own peril. You've been warned.

Now, some of you may argue "Well, doesn't everyone deserve an opportunity to live a better life than what they're currently living? Is it not our Christian duty to help all of these foreigners? Shouldn't we just open our arms and embrace all of those poor people?" I believe that I have already amply and clearly responded to such thoughts. We as a nation can only do so much within our means. We cannot help those people at the expense of our own people. It just is not right in my book, or in God's Book for that matter. Let me share that verse with you again, because it actually works both ways:

But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

1 Timothy 5:8, KJV

In short, if that verse applies to the American government, then in order to be really fair and impartial, we need to likewise apply that same standard to all of the governments in the countries where those legal and illegal immigrants originate. Just as it is the responsibility of Washington, D.C. to make certain that all of America's poor, sick, downtrodden and elderly are fully and properly cared for, so too, it is the responsibility of those governments to do the same with their people as well. It is not the responsibility of the American government, or the American people, to do it for them. I don't care what anyone says. America is not the world's babysitter, and should not be expected to be such. Neither should the world expect the United States to be the automatic dumping ground for all of their undesirables.

Now, if those foreigners and immigrants who come to America have it bad in their own country because their government is corrupt, their business owners are corrupt, etc., that isn't our fault. Instead of just running to our country, legally

or illegally, to take jobs away from American citizens, and to tax our systems, it is my view that they need to remain in their own countries, and collectively endeavor to repair whatever is wrong. That is the right thing to do in my book. Doesn't this make sense? Doesn't it sound fair?

In fact, in thinking about it, that is what should have also happened in Iraq. Instead, the American government under both President Bushes went in and meddled where it simply did not belong. After so many years over there, and so many dead, and so many people coming home maimed and messed up in the head, what did the U.S.A. really accomplish over there? Not much. There is still an oppressive, divided government in power. There is still civil war raging there. It is an ugly mess.

You see, we can and should practice niceness, kindness and compassion on a personal level in our own lives. Nobody will disagree with that. And as we have already clearly seen, it is in fact what God's Word instructs us to do. However, as I already said, when we elevate it to talking about a national government, a national economy, and a national labor force, there simply needs to be a point where we have to finally say "Enough is enough. We have done our part. We can do no more. You need to deal with it now." Democrats and other liberal thinkers have not been willing to do that, and we now see where that kind of thinking has led us.

Please go to part four for the conclusion of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<http://www.billkochman.com>

WHAT ABOUT THE POOR? : PART 4

Copyright 1994 - 2017 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : January 4, 2017

Last Updated : January 4, 2017

How This Series Began, Just Go With The Flow Of The Spirit, Pivotal Moment In USA With Incoming New President, Personal Politics, Republicans May Soon Bad-Mouth Public Assistance And Related Social Programs, May Claim Such Programs Have Become Too Much Of A Financial Burden And Must Be Changed, Trump And Republicans Will Chip Away At And Weaken Programs, Tougher Eligibility Requirements May Be Coming, Remember Who The Political Snobs Are And What They've Done To You And Your Family, Does This Series Resonate?, I'm Rooting For You, My Concerns Regarding Trump's Campaign Promises, Build The Wall And Build It Tall, Closing Remarks, Suggesting Reading List

In conclusion, when I first began writing this series about twenty-eight hours ago, I honestly didn't know why the Lord had me start writing it. It certainly was not planned, and I had no intention of doing so. It was about 12:30 AM, I had just finished writing a new series of poems, and then bam! I saw that news headline regarding the dire situation in the nation's capital, and that is all that it took to get me going.

In fact, as with all things that I do here, I had no idea in which direction this series would go, once I began it. I did not even know that it would end up being a four-part series. In fact, originally, it was just intended to be a short post on my blog, and not a full-fledge series on my BBB website. Over the years, I have just come to accept that such is just the way in which the Spirit tends to operate. You just have to go with the flow. That has always been my modus operandi insofar as this ministry is concerned. The moment by moment inspiration, not knowing what may come next, not even the next line of an article or a poem, is inspiring. I just sit here, let it rip, and have a blast.

At any rate, upon further reflection, I do have one inkling regarding why this series came at this particular time. It is a pivotal moment in the United States. A new president is about to take office. This man, as I noted earlier, may hurt the very people I have discussed in this series; that is, the poor, the sick and the elderly. Many of you will already know that I endeavor to stay out of politics. I am neither Republican, Democrat or Independent. However, as I've lived out my life in my little "cave" here, I have observed a lot

over the years, and I have thus picked up on how the various political parties and factions tend to operate in America.

Based on that, I am getting the sense that what we may soon see -- that is, in coming months -- is a lot of bad-mouthing from the Republican side of the fence, regarding these very public assistance programs I have been discussing, as well as negative talk about Medicare, Social Security, and anything else which helps the poor, the sick, the downtrodden and the elderly. I would not be the least surprised if they start to promote the narrative that such programs cannot continue as they are in their current state. They will probably say that these programs have become too much of a financial burden on the federal government, and on state governments. They may claim that there is just not enough money to run them all in the same fashion as they have been doing for many years now.

Based on what I have read online in recent months -- and it hasn't been a lot, really -- I suspect that they will try to change the nature of some of these programs, particularly because the incoming president is a businessman first and above all. His experience in that field has some positives, as well as some negatives, in my view. At any rate, I think they may want to convert some of these public assistance programs into something more like investments. They may try to turn them more into something like business deals or business arrangements between the government and the people, from which they can profit in some way, but, of course, at our expense.

Generally speaking, I strongly suspect that they will chip away at and weaken some of these programs. They may very well raise the bar even further regarding eligibility requirements as a way to kick even more needy people off of the programs, even though these programs are these people's last resort.

To reiterate, I am talking about such programs as Welfare, SNAP -- a.k.a. Food Stamps -- Medicaid, MIP -- Medically Indigent Program -- WIC, Medicare, Social Security, perhaps programs that assist military veterans, and any number of other government-regulated programs out there that I am not even aware of. I don't know the specifics of any of this. I don't know the details, or exactly what they will do, or how they will implement their plans, but more cuts are more than likely coming. After all, this is what the Republicans have a

history of doing.

I just have this sense that they are going to hurt people who find themselves on lower rungs of the social and economic ladder than themselves. However, they will try to soften the blow and dress it up nicely in public by saying that they are actually strengthening these programs, and ensuring these programs' survival, and saving money at the same time. Sound familiar?

Now, when they start to throw this nonsense at us, and try to convince us why all of their harsh measures are so necessary, I would like you to remember a few things. They are the ones who are throwing billions of dollars at foreign governments, while their own constituents hurt, are hungry, are homeless, go jobless, have no medical coverage, are depressed, and in some cases, are dying. They are the ones who throw their lavish Washington, D.C. parties. They are the ones who drive ridiculously expensive cars, while the rest of America must be happy with the bottom of the line.

They are the ones who have their own full medical and dental coverage with the very best doctors, because what the rest of America uses is simply not good enough for them and their well-heeled tastes. They are also the ones whose own sons and daughters are very rarely ever sent to fight in America's foreign wars, while the rest of America sends their sons and daughters willingly or out of necessity, and then grieves when those same sons and daughters come home psychologically messed up, maimed, or even in wooden boxes with an American flag draped over them. They are the ones who smile before the cameras, kiss babies and shake hands, and then complain behind closed doors about what a burden we are to them.

Are you getting the picture yet? Do you think that I am being a bit overly dramatic or over-exaggerating? Do you think I am being a little too harsh on our more-than-well-paid "public servants"? I didn't think so. I am willing to bet that this series has resonated with quite a few of you, and that you are shouting "Amen, Bill! You hit it right on the head! That is exactly how I feel too!". God's Spirit is faithful, my friends.

On a final note, even though I do not personally live in the continental United States of America, I want you to know

that if you are personally suffering in some way as a result of the current wave of legal and illegal immigration, I am rooting for you. I truly hope that President-elect Donald Trump proves himself to be a man of resolve who will indeed fulfill all of his major campaign promises, even though I am a realist, and already know that this is highly doubtful and improbable. Things never work out that way, do they?

You need to understand that for months now, the Republicans have had plenty of time to pound away at Mr. Trump's personal convictions, and try to weaken them in different areas. Even though they have tried to display a unified front following Donald Trump's totally unexpected electoral victory, serious differences do exist between Trump and the other Republicans, as you may already know. So time will reveal exactly how much Trump is going to do for the benefit of the American people in general, and not just for the upper crust.

At the very least, I hope that the President-elect builds that border wall from one end to the other. I think you folks needed it yesterday. I am not talking about something similar to the flimsy structures which exist now, or just adding more border fences -- which, in the end, is what Mr. Trump may try to get away with doing, if his resolve weakens too much.

When I think of a border wall, I think of something like what they show in the Maze Runner series of movies; that is, this gigantic, unscalable structure; an impenetrable barrier made out of concrete and steel, with sensors, and flashing lights, and the whole works. Just as ancient Roman siege walls were wide enough on top for Roman chariots to ride across, it would be great if the wall on America's southern border was likewise wide enough for the border patrol vehicles to ride across as well, similar to some of those huge dams that they build. It needs to be something very intimidating, which sends the clear message "You are not allowed in here, unless we want you in here." That is the only thing that some folks seem to understand, apparently.

With these thoughts, I will bring this series to a close. I pray that it has been informative, and a blessing to many. If you happen to have a user account with Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would also very much appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding links that are found on this page. Feedback in the form of comments on the

various social networks in which I participate are likewise greatly appreciated, and encourage my heart, because they show me that you are actually reading what I write and share with the world. Thank you so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, I encourage you to study the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which contain topics that are related to this current series, and which are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server:

Selfishness: A Prophesied Sign of the Endtime
When the Pipers Come Knocking
Coming Your Way Soon: A New World Order!
Money-Making Bible Hucksters and Mammon
Obama, McCain and the Bush Legacy
Obamacare and the Mark of the Beast: Fact or Fiction?
The Plight of the Children: School Gun Violence!
The Public School System and School Prayer
The International Jew and the Protocols of Zion
Welcome to Greater Israel, USA!

Written by the WordWeaver

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<http://www.billkochman.com>