



Simple Wisdom for Confusing Times

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Wisdom from Heaven

James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

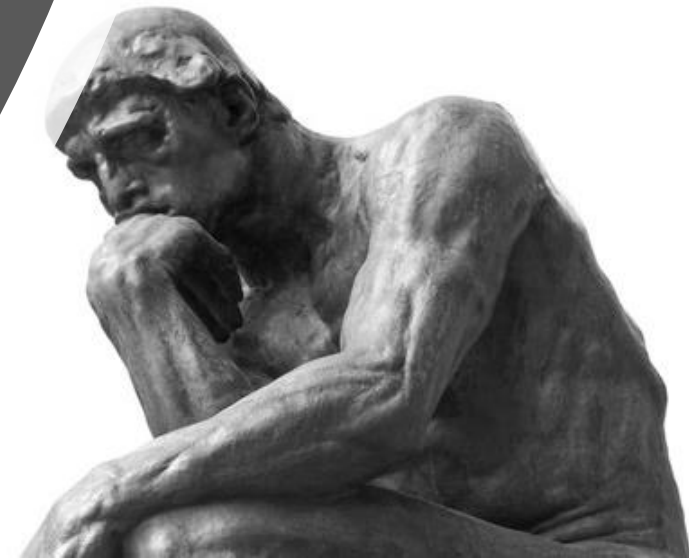


Image Bearers

Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

...

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.



What is our response?



1. Be confident that the unchanging word of God can be trusted.

Ps 119:89 Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

2. Let your anger be directed at Satan, not people.

3. Don't be afraid to speak the truth in love.

Children of God

Acts 17: 26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'



How do we respond?

1

Realize that only in Christ can we find true unity.

2

Go out of your way to make connections with people different from yourself.

3

Seek to understand another person's point of view.

4

Seek justice and mercy for everyone. When one part suffers we all suffer.

Questions about reparations?

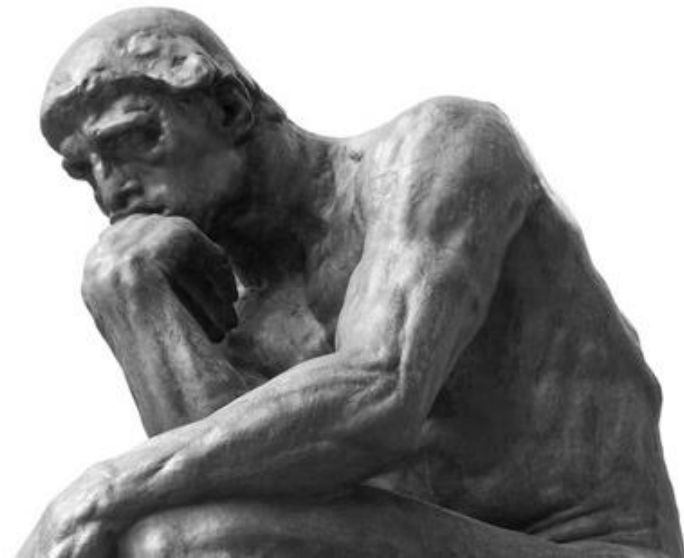
Legal – how do you determine who pays and who receives?

Logical – if slavery was really the reason for American wealth creation, why were the richest regions in the US those where slavery was absent?

Practical – what about people like me whose American roots started post civil war?

What about the black descendants of black slave traders?


Moral – is it right for a person to have to pay for the sins of someone else?



God's wisdom

Exodus 18:20 The one who sins is the one who will die. The child will not share the guilt of the parent, nor will the parent share the guilt of the child. The righteousness of the righteous will be credited to them, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against them.





Socialism is "an economic system based upon governmental or communal ownership of the means of production and distribution of goods and services."¹

Communism is "the Marxist ideal of a classless and stateless utopian society in which all property is commonly owned and each person is paid according to his or her abilities and needs."

Does the Bible Teach Socialism?

Acts 2:44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

Does the Bible Teach Socialism?

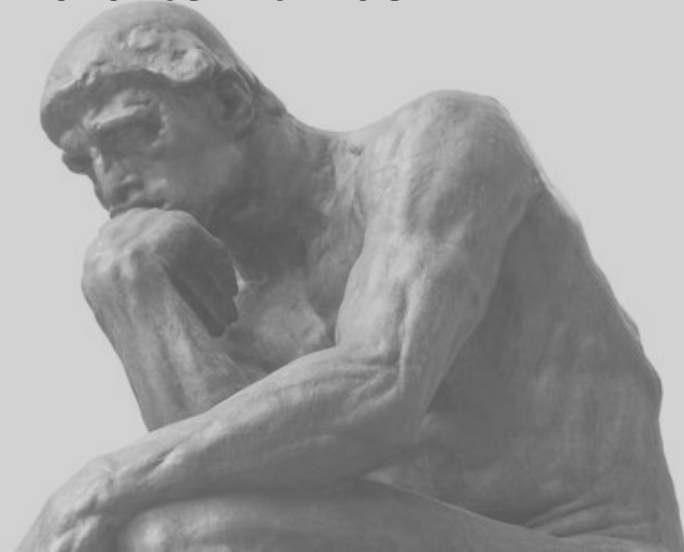
Acts 4:32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Look at All Scripture

1. The bible teaches about private property, personal economic accountability, the rewards of working hard
2. The verses in Acts refer to Spirit prompted activity
3. Peter affirms the ideas of personal ownership:

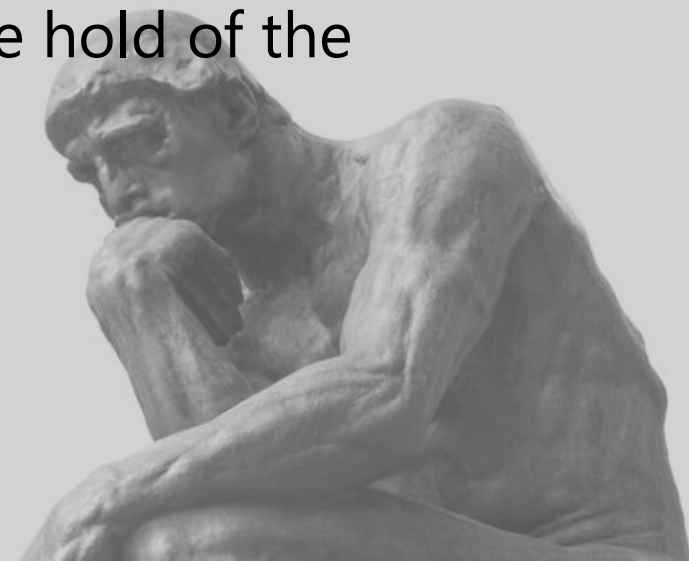
Acts 5: 4 Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal?

4. Paul adds this perspective in 1 Tim 6:17



Be generous and willing to share

1 Tim 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.



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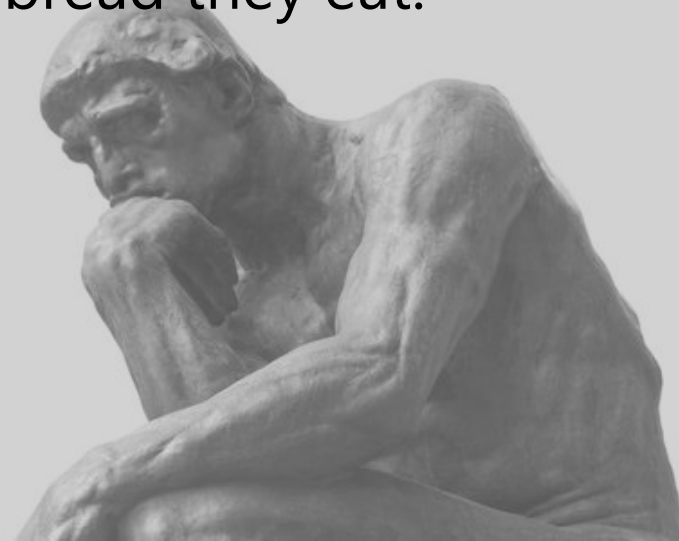
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5. If you don't work, you don't eat



2 Thess 3:10

For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

11 We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. 12 Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat.



Living as children of the Light

James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

1. Be confident in the Truth – it doesn't change
2. Be gentle and kind to those God is calling
3. Do good to those around you and share Christ

