

inefficiency always creeps into bureaucracies. That is why I believe in the autonomous local church rather than a denominational system that holds sway over the church. Things get done more efficiently on the local level. Similarly, government works better smaller, not bigger. While I don't believe that capitalism in all its facets is particularly God's plan, neither is socialism or communism. To find justification for those systems I again suggest looking here. No, capitalism isn't perfect, but if faced with a choice between it and more government control and intrusion into our finances and lives that leads to a quasi socialist/capitalist economy; I will choose capitalism, smaller government, and freedom until something better comes along or until the best comes in the form of Jesus' return. ■

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: *VOLUNTEER NEEDED!*
 Cradle Roll 2: *VOLUNTEER NEEDED!*
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: *Kristi Hooper*
 Cradle Roll 2: *Kelsey Moreno*
 Wed. Evening Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: *LeAnna White*
 Cradle Roll 2: *Seth White*

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of February 19, 2012

Sunday School ----- 11
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 19
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 18
 Wed. Eve., 02/22/11 Service ----- 19

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of February 19, 2012

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 868.00
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 6.00
Total Received for Week of 02/19/12: \$ 874.00

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

INSURANCE FUND REPORT FOR FEBRUARY, 2012:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08
 Amount Received so far during February, 2012 ----- \$ 18.00
Amount STILL NEEDED by 03/5/12 - \$ 255.08

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*



Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start *today - OK?* Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
 Dwayne English ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY
REMINDER

Volume XVI

February 26, 2012

Number 8

WE CONTINUE OUR STUDY TODAY ON

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

(To Assist You In Your Study, We Encourage You To Follow Along Using The Outline Below)

Seven Motivational Gifts

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness" (Romans 12:6 - 8).

- _____ (supernatural ability to make money for the purpose of sharing it with others under the Holy Spirit's control.)

● **Tendencies:**

1. Sharing is easy.
2. Thinks in the pronoun "we" rather than "I".
3. Can speak with oral freedom.
4. Enjoys active participation with others.
5. Common sense is a way of life, and children with this gift can be corrected by reasoning.
6. Lives life to please others.
7. Main characteristic is that they are very supportive of others (if a person is having a hard time identifying himself as to his motivational gift, he is probably a contributor).

● **Problems:**

1. May measure success by material assets.
2. May overlook long range plans and focus on immediate needs.
3. Can be very depressed if not getting support from others.
4. May be manipulative.
5. May over-contribute to children and serve self through children.

(continued inside)

● **Responses of the person with the Gift of Giving:**

Under the Holy Spirit's control:

1. Invest _____ with gift
2. Desire to give high _____
3. Hope gift answers _____
4. Desire to give _____
5. Concern that giving will _____
6. Exercise personal _____
7. Use gifts to multiply _____
8. Confirm amount with _____

NOTES:

Under the control of the flesh:

1. Hoarding resources for _____
2. Using gift to control _____
3. Forcing higher living _____
4. Feeling guilty about personal _____
5. Rejecting _____ appeals
6. Giving too sparingly to _____
7. Giving to _____ versus _____
8. Causing people to look at _____ instead of God
9. Waiting too long to _____

Was Jesus a Communist and A Supporter of Governmental Redistribution of Wealth?

by Pastor Robin Foster - CourageouslyBaptistWordpress.com

An article by Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite in the Washington Post last Fall aroused my interest. Not because I am a bit of a political junkie and I keep up with most things political, but because Thistlethwaite invoked God and the Bible to back up President Obama's recent Jobs Act that includes \$1.5 trillion in tax increases. I was appalled at her use of the Bible to justify governmental redistribution of wealth. While there are several areas I could explore in her article, two will be my focus. First, she used biblical passages out of context in order to back her point of supporting governmental redistribution of wealth. She was also incorrect in stating the core values of the Christian faith as "fairness, equality, and opportunity for all."

After reading her article, I must admit I was somewhat astounded that a professor at a seminary could get the biblical passages so wrong. She cherry picks certain passages and then rips them out of their context in order to justify her points. One is her quote of Acts 4:32-35 which she feels justifies "anti-poverty political work." In other words, the work of helping the poor should be the job of the government, and Christians should be willing to support any and all government measures that may help the poor including raising \$1.5 trillion dollars in tax increases as President Obama wants to do. What many fail to realize is that our tax paying dollars have been used in the many trillions to fight a war on poverty since the 1960's. Guess what? We still have the poor (Matt 26:11). Nevertheless, in the aforementioned Acts scripture, it was the church that was selling and giving to all who were in need, not the government. They did not hand their money to Rome in order to let Rome help those who were in need. That was simply not the case. So, why was there a need? Because after Pentecost, the church had thousands of Christians still in Jerusalem with out job or home who were being disciplined by the Apostles. They had left their homes to participate in the Pentecost festival when God's Spirit descended upon them and the church was born. With planning done for the short term, the new Christians had ran out of resources when they stayed in Jerusalem. The people in need were not necessarily the poor of the community as it was people who still had farms and businesses back home that were on hiatus until their discipleship with the Apostles was over. These were people in a city who did not have the means to house or feed themselves for an extended period of time. To use this passage in justifying the redistribution of wealth so the government can take care of the poor misses the point of the passage and is in fact imposing socialistic ideology on a biblical text. This passage does not justify governmental redistribution of wealth, communism, or socialism or any other "ism."

Second is Ms. Thistlethwaite's statement that, "What we need

to do is re-establish our national values of fairness, equality and opportunity for all, values that I believe are actually the core of the Christian faith, (as well as of other religious traditions and of humanist values)." First, the core of the Christian faith is not "fairness, equality and opportunity for all." While I do believe those values can be found in the Bible, it is not those values that make up the core of Christianity. A holy and loving God who is working to redeem His creation from the destructive work of sin in the world defines the core of Christianity. God is doing this by the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son to atone for the sins of humanity. For those who realize their dreadful state of sin and accept God's free gift of grace by faith, they are counted as a child of God, forever forgiven for their sins. In fact, this core concept is anything but fair. It was not fair for Jesus to take my or anyone's else's punishment on the cross for our sins. Jesus did not die to bring about "fairness, equality and opportunity for all." He died to redeem a creation permeated with sin and ruin. I also don't believe it is "fairness, equality, and opportunity for all" that caused Paul to endure all of his sufferings in the proclamation of the Gospel. It was Jesus and God's divine grace upon him that caused Paul to endure beatings, shipwreck, and imprisonment. It was the power of the Gospel and the glory of God that motivated Paul (Rom. 1:16-17). The core of Christianity is the Gospel. To make it Ms. Thistlethwaite's core of "fairness, equality, and opportunity for all" cheapens the biblical message if not also distorts it and leaves creation in its dreadful state of sin.

At one point, I do have to agree with Ms. Thistlethwaite in that modern capitalism is not God's plan as if He created it. Ultimately, God's plan is for His Son to return and set up God's economy. Until then in the U. S., capitalism is a primarily man made plan that has some Christian values such as the right of ownership of private property (I Kings 21) and the idea that it is necessary for someone to work in order eat (II Thess. 3:10). But in any man made system, there are prone to be opportunities of abuse. Unlike Gordon Gekko, the Bible teaches that greed is unbiblical, a liar of false hopes, and destructive (Luke 12:15). Yet in our nation or any other for that fact, greed can be found in those who are millionaires or those who are on welfare. Greed holds no discrimination against economic class. Aside from that, the bigger question to this issue is what has capitalism produced to the good of humanity? One has to look far and wide throughout human history to find another social and economic structure that has been more benevolent than capitalism in the U.S. In pure capitalism, people have the freedom to keep as much as they want or give back as much as they want, yet what we have witnessed time and time again is that when left with the freedom to choose, those in the capitalistic U. S. have given generously to help here at home and to those abroad who are suffering tragedy or are just down on their luck. It is capitalism that has produced the wealth of the U. S. so that we can be more than generous when compared with our foreign neighbors who hold to differing governmental and economic systems. If one thing has been proven true concerning bigger government and bigger taxes,