

Twelve Bible Passages that Destroy Socialism and Uphold Free Enterprise
Part 2: Who Has the Responsibility of Meeting the People's Needs?
The Purpose of Work

Discussion Forum: Items for Reflection and Dialogue

1. Exodus 20:8-11 presents both the right and responsibility to rest from work and to worship God on the Sabbath (Saturday for the Israelites, but Sunday has been called the "Christian Sabbath"). The passage also showcases both the right and responsibility to work on the other six days, making it possible for an individual who does this to benefit from and even enjoy the fruits of his or her labor. How does the passage convey this is an individual responsibility, both to meet the needs of oneself and one's family?

following bold portion of this statement from the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. —**That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men,** deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed..." ? Explain your answer.
2. While 2 Thessalonians 3:10 and 1 Timothy 5:8 are directed primarily to believers, there are implications from these verses for society at large. What are some things government needs to *refrain from doing* to create and promote a cultural atmosphere that fosters personal responsibility?
3. What is government's job, according to Scripture? What do you think of expressing this responsibility with this phrase — *dispensing and maintaining justice*? Because the term *justice* has been redefined today, it is widely misunderstood. Dispensing justice is *not* meeting the needs of people or groups. It is giving people what they truly deserve. For an expanded discussion of the true meaning of *justice*, visit <https://t.ly/hUpVx>. Does the phrase *dispensing and maintaining justice* express well the job assigned to government in Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-17? Explain your answer.
4. How well does the phrase *dispensing and maintaining justice* summarize the
5. Historian and author and Christian leader William J. Federer has noted that "There is no biblical command for government to help the poor, or take care of the sick, or operate schools, or provide jobs, healthcare, education, or other entitlements" (see <https://t.ly/u4Csj>). Why might government be ill-equipped to perform such tasks, and even terrible at trying? How might government, even with the best of intentions, actually make individuals' and families' situations worse? We will return to consider William Federer's observation once again in part 4.
6. Go to <https://t.ly/Fi1D3>, where you can read all of the quotations from America's founding era cited in part 2. Which statement is most surprising to you? Explain.
7. How can we who understand the compassionate nature of holding people accountable and promoting responsibility help people understand that upholding accountability and responsibility are genuinely compassionate?