

God is in control; this is a concept you must take into account when looking at economical situations around the world. Ultimately, those who gain wealth and power, or those who live their life in poverty, do so under the watchful eye of their creator.

Socialism, while appearing to put everyone on “equal footing” actually violates the word of God, in more ways than one. Let’s look at some aspects of this system, and determine how they mesh with God’s word.

Firstly, socialism takes material goods from those who own them, and redistributes them among the populace. This is a violation of the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment, recorded in Exodus 20:15, “Thou shall not steal”. Whatever else you call it, taking from one to give to another is theft. Scripture is replete with verses dealing with people’s “private property”, not “government distributed” or “public” property. It is clear that God ordained the individual’s rights to buy sell and make a profit. Socialism flies in the face of God’s law, putting the responsibility of being “overseer” of material goods on the government’s shoulders, rather than on God’s.

Secondly it encourages laziness. Why should one strive to better themselves, and become more productive, if they are still going to receive an equal share with their neighbor, who does NOT work hard? God understood this; notice what the apostle Paul says:

*“If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat” (2 Thessalonians 3:10 ESV)*

Thirdly, by taking a simple look at the governments around the world, it is clearly seen that those countries who subscribe to capitalism as a general rule thrive, while those countries which are socialist or communist do not. All one has to do is to look at what befell the Soviet Union, to understand

that such a non driven economy does not function in the real world. This is important, because it demonstrates a biblical principle; God blesses those countries which follow his lead, and removes his hand of blessing from those which do not.