



Marketplace Moments

Bibliophoria

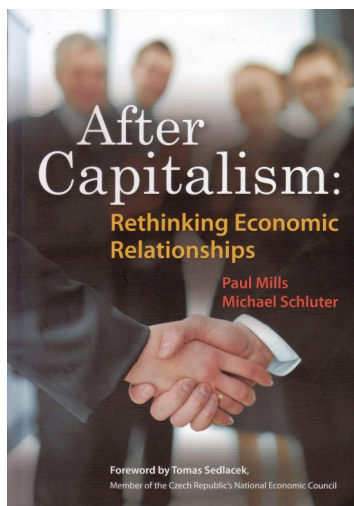
After Capitalism: Rethinking Economic Relationships

By Paul Mills & Michael Schluter

Since the 2008 economic crisis, the world economy went through a period of reflection on why rampant systemic irresponsibility was exhibited in Wall Street and other major financial centers around the world. There are many views but in 2013 today, it seems that not much has really changed. In a recent article *From the Global Financial Crisis, Lessons only Partially Learned* from Wharton School of Business writes, "There seems to be a growing disconnect between financial markets and the real economy. Franklin Allen (Wharton Professor in Finance) stated, "Financial markets have been booming, but in the real economy, growth trends are very tepid in most of the world," he said. "Are we going through another session of boom and bubble in the stock market, and is it likely to burst?"

This book is a collection of essays from the Jubilee Centre, Cambridge by Dr. Michael Schluter, a former economics consultant of the World Bank, and Dr. Paul Mills who had experience working for the UK Treasury and leading financial institution in Washington DC and London, specializing in global financial stability and debt.

They strive to bring biblical principles to bear in their reflection on Capitalism and the economy and how, in many ways, have taken away relationship as one of the primary elements in the existing economic system. I particularly find it



helpful Mill's essay on Capitalism: the five moral flaws and their social consequences;

- i) An exclusively materialistic vision.
- ii) Reward without responsibility.
- iii) Limited liability of shareholders.
- iv) People disconnected from place.
- v) Inadequate social safeguard.

These has led to family and community breakdown and giant corporations and giant governments.

Other ideas in the book relates to our debt-based economic system, relationships and economic system bearing on public policies. Central to these essays is the concept of "Relationalism", pursuing a biblical vision for society.

Key to moving forward is their ideas of how a relational economy can began to reform capitalism, strengthening families and households, empowering extended families, engaging capital providers and entrust welfare to local communities. This is definitely a thought provoking collection.

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Of the Heart and Mind

Blessings

I was moved by the song 'Blessings' performed by Laura Story. What a breath of fresh air from the many other 'lovey dovey' feel good Christian songs.

- Blessings -

We pray for blessings
We pray for peace
Comfort for family,
protection while we sleep
We pray for healing,
for prosperity
We pray for Your mighty hand
to ease our suffering
All the while, You hear each
spoken need
Yet love us way too much to
give us lesser things

'Cause what if Your blessings
come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes
through tears
What if a thousand sleepless
nights
Are what it takes to know
You're near
What if trials of this life are
Your mercies in disguise

We pray for wisdom
Your voice to hear
And we cry in anger when we
cannot feel You near
We doubt Your goodness, we
doubt Your love

As if every promise from Your
Word is not enough
All the while, You hear each
desperate plea
And long that we have faith to
believe

'Cause what if Your blessings
come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes
through tears
What if a thousand sleepless
nights
Are what it takes to know
You're near
And what if trials of this life
are Your mercies in disguise

When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win
We know that pain reminds this
heart
That this is not, this is not our
home
It's not our home

'Cause what if Your blessings
come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes
through tears
And what if a thousand
sleepless nights
Are what it takes to know
You're near
What if my greatest
disappointments
Or the aching of this life
Is the revealing of a greater
thirst this world can't satisfy



And what if trials of this life
The rain, the storms,
the hardest nights
Are Your mercies in disguise.

All of us has in our mind
what blessings are! We speak of
blessings as if it is the right of
every Christian to receive, and in
the way WE want them to be.

We always take Job as a
model of suffering. The reality
is, most of us wouldn't be able
to go through what he has gone
through and survive our faith. It
is also unfair to point our fingers
at his wife for asking Job to
'curse God and die'. I readily ad-
mit that I will be more like Job's
wife.

But Job's suffering is
also rather senseless if you
think about it. It was a 'dare'
from the devil to God, and God
gambled. "What kind of God will
do that?" some may ask.

After 40 or more gruel-
ing chapters, we seem relieved
to find a happy ending. Job was
rewarded with double portion of
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Eyes in a Darkened Room

Les Miserable

The film is based on the musical of the same name by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg which is in turn based on the 1862 French novel by Victor Hugo. The film is directed by Tom Hooper. stars an ensemble cast led by Hugh Jackman (Jean Valjean), Russell Crowe (Javert), Anne Hathaway (Fantine), and Amanda Seyfried (Cosette).

The film tells the story of Jean Valjean, an ex-convict who becomes mayor of a town in France. Soon exposed, Valjean agrees to take care of Cosette, the illegitimate daughter of the dying Fantine, but as a fugitive must also avoid being captured again by police inspector Javert. The plot spans 17 years and is set against a backdrop of political turmoil, which in the film culminates in the June Rebellion of France. (Wikipedia)

This movie, made into a musical is brilliant in casting and photography winning accolades at the Golden Globe and 3 Academy

Awards. Anne Hathaway, has broken her teenage image of the princess diaries into an actress with substance. Her portrayal of Fantine is both heroic and tragic.

As with the musical, the movie followed closely the plot and story of Victor Hugo's masterpiece, portraying the falleness of a society, the powerlessness of the poor and to see a glimmer of grace.

Valjean was arrested for stealing a loaf of bread for his family, later escaped and saved by a priest who provided him food and shelter. Though provided for, Valjean stole again from the church. However, in that process, he was deeply affected by something demonstrated by the priest; grace. He began to live a life demonstrating that kind of grace as well to others, including Fantine & Cosette.

Often in our life, we don't understand concepts when it is taught to us through books, seminars or bible study. However, we



are deeply moved by the demonstration of it.

Javert on the other hand, a disciplined inspector pursued Valjean with a vengeance to uphold the law which he has vowed to follow. Through a series of events, Javert's life was spared by Valjean.

In one of the most powerful scenes for me in the movie, was the struggle of Javert trying to reconcile his own shame and guilt for being spared (grace shown) by the one he pursued and that now is unable to live with himself for the tension between grace and justice. He was a man who had no experience of grace. Javert committed suicide.

In a fallen world, we continue to live with the tension of grace and justice. At the same time we have also known and experienced the resolution of the conflict through Jesus' demonstration on the cross. Grace and justice were both satisfied.



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Kingdom Building at the Workplace

Coming Events

For more information check our web-site.

20 Sep- GCF Annual Dinner \$60/pax
Destiny: There's More
(Dr. Philip Pillai).



Song Link on Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CSVqHcdhXQ>

everything that he had lost. Therefore, many of us assume that if we are able to go through the period of testing or trials, that we too will be rewarded with things that we desire. Not always true.

Here is another perspective. Consider Jeremiah, also known as the 'weeping prophet'. In all human terms, his career was doomed from day one. He was called to speak forth a very unpopular message to his own people who will not listen. Start your new job with these words; "They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you" declares the Lord.

Other than the brief reprieve he saw with King Josiah, he was beaten, imprisoned, thrown into a cistern, a mud pool that almost killed him. He finally ended up in Egypt and according to a few historians, was stoned to death by his own people there.

He was faithful till the end, there were no 'converts' like Jonah; an entire city of Nine-

veh repented and Jonah was not happy about it. Where did Jeremiah get the strength to keep going? Where was Jeremiah's blessing? Perhaps Lamentations 3:19-24 gives us some insights.

19 I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. 20 I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. 21 Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: 22 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 24 I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

We need to continue to learn to submit ourselves into His hands, trusting His great love, His compassion and His faithfulness.

The greatest blessing is not in the things we have, or the circumstances we are in, but in the relationship with whom we have for all eternity, our Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ.

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