

A Christian defending against socialism

Johnelle Donnell Guest Viewpoint

I was prompted to write a column when I read the title and subtitle of a feature article in the Religion section of this newspaper on September 26 —“From Each According to Ability; to Each According to Need, Tracing the Biblical roots of socialism’s enduring slogan.”

A quick scan of those words might imply socialism is a Biblical concept authored by God, which I feel compelled to refute. When school prayer was banned in the ’60’s, I don’t remember much outcry. There is no room for silence anymore. This time I had to speak out.

I am no expert in political science or economics, but I am a student of scripture and called to defend its truths. There are many variants of socialism, but government ownership and control of property and the means of production and distribution are the common denominator in most cases.

One fatal flaw of socialism is that it believes its system can make better decisions for the people than they can for themselves. People are expected to work for the common good rather than for their own advancement, and this destroys motivation.

God mandated that humans work in Genesis 2. The Biblical worldview reveals an important relationship between effort and compensation. Labor and private property are promoted.

Through my years in jail ministry I have seen the rewards that come to those who develop a strong work ethic while overcoming criminal histories.

They maintain steady employment, learn to save money, purchase a car, and eventually overcome poverty.

In contrast, I have also encountered many people behind bars who already receive or are seeking to receive monthly checks from the government, and predictably, as I follow them upon release, their cycle of incarceration and poverty continues.

If they go to work, their check from the government is reduced or terminated, so why work? I have often told them that those monthly checks are just enough to rob them of motivation and not enough to give them a decent standard of living.

Handouts from the government are what socialism promises, but as Margaret Thatcher noted, socialism is guaranteed to fail because “eventually you run out of other people’s money.”

If socialists understood economics, they wouldn’t be socialists. Socialism always ravages a country’s economy. We have seen Hungary, Greece, Venezuela, and other South American countries crumble and their people risk everything to reach America in hope of a better life.

As Ted Cruz’s Cuban immigrant father said, “If America is lost, where will we go?” People are not crawling over walls to get into other countries; they are drawn here by our democratic form of government and a capitalist economy that is thriving and rewards hard work.

There are similarities between the crumbling of Venezuela and the direction we are headed. Left-leaning demonstrators became political pawns, a growing welfare state caused quality of life to deteriorate, statues were torn down, street names were changed.

They also dismantled the police, attempted to rewrite the nation’s history, changed the voting system ... sound familiar? As life deteriorated, change became the new normal, chaos went from economic instability to rampant crime, and people just grew weary and complacent, accepting one new normal after another.

Socialism is the first stepping stone toward communism. G. Edward Griffin, a writer and founder of Freedom Force International, warned in 1969, “The building of socialism is the Communist revolution in America.

It represents the process whereby our country can be moved gradually toward Communism without the people even being aware of it.

No matter what grievance we may have, real or imagined, no matter what national problems we may face, the Communists seize upon these as excuses to build socialism.

They have one and only one solution for all problems, more government, more government, and then more and more, until it's total government.

And forgive me for saying it one more time, total government is Communism.”

Note that statement was from 1969, in an article entitled, “How the Communists Plan to Take Over America.”

e, the people of the United States of America, have been entrusted with the greatest nation on earth.

Ours is a rich and godly heritage. It is our responsibility to assure that our God-ordained Constitution and system of government are not abandoned.

As Winston Churchill famously said, “No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all wise.

Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others that have been tried from time to time.”