

International Presbyterian Church - Ealing
Why business matters to God?



Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
Richard Turnbull, March 2021

1

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
The Church and Business

- Failure to understand business
- Inadequacy of theological resources

2

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

'In an ideal world capitalist work would be necessary....contrary to a widespread belief among the clergy that good work and capitalist work are inconsistent with each other.'

Deirdre McCloskey, *The Bourgeois Virtues*, p462

3

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

Why business matters to God?

- 18th January *A biblical theology of work*
- 22nd February *Divine imperative of wealth creation*
- 15th March *Call and vocation*
- 19th April *Enterprise and entrepreneurship*
- 24th May *In person discussion evening*

4

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

- Blessing and curse
- Biblical examples of entrepreneurship
- A theology of enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Lessons for today

5

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

‘the curse is restrained by grace.’

Abraham Kuypers, *Lectures on Calvinism*, Lecture 1
(CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2012),
p. 20.

6

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

‘We are now as imaginatively disconnected from the manufacture and distribution of our goods as we are practically in reach of them, a process of alienation which has stripped us of myriad opportunities for wonder, gratitude and guilt.’

Alain de Botton, *The Pleasures and Sorrows of Work* (London: Penguin, 2010, 2015), p. 35

7

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

- Blessing and curse
- Biblical examples of entrepreneurship

8

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

‘Then Moses said to people of Israel: ‘See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel . . . he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab . . . He has filled them with skill to do every sort of work done by an engraver or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue and purple, and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, or by a weaver – by any sort of workman or skilled designer.’

Exodus 35:30-35

9

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

Joseph – economist and entrepreneur

- Planning (v46)
- Building reserves (vv47-48)
- Taxation and budget surplus (v34)
- Selling in the market (v56)
- Free trade (v57)

10

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

- Blessing and curse
- Biblical examples of entrepreneurship
- A theology of enterprise and entrepreneurship

11

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

A theology of enterprise and entrepreneurship

- Reflects God's character and purpose
- Gives weight to innovation and creativity, wealth creation, provision of goods and services, reward and incentive.
- Permits investigation of human capital and development

12

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

‘By dint of intelligent thought and hard work, man gradually uncovers the hidden laws of nature and learns to make better use of natural resources . . . he is stimulated to undertake new investigations and fresh discoveries, to take prudent risks and launch new ventures, to act responsibly and to give of himself unselfishly.’

Pope Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio*, para. 25.

13

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

- Blessing and curse
- Biblical examples of entrepreneurship
- A theology of enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Lessons for today

14

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

Lessons for today

- Encouraging innovation
- Development of skills and education

15

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

‘Work should be the setting for this rich personal growth, where many aspects of life enter into play: creativity, planning for the future, developing our talents, living out our values, relating to others, giving glory to God.’

Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, para. 127.

16

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

Lessons for today

- Encouraging innovation
- Development of skills and education
- Scepticism about excessive regulation

17

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

‘Nor should we primarily or exclusively seek to moralise the markets through legislation that often times inadvertently stifles human risk and thus creativity and exploration.’

Darrell Cosden, *A Theology of Work: Work and the New Creation* (Carlisle: Paternoster Press, 2004), p. 182.

18