

Local Church Budget

Financial Peace

The names of Latimer and Ridley are tied together in history because they were tied to the same stake to be burned as martyrs on October 16, 1555. On the evening before Ridley's execution, a friend offered to stay by his side all night to comfort him, but Ridley politely declined his offer, saying, "God willing, I plan to sleep as quietly tonight as ever I did in my life."

How could Ridley have such peace when he was about to lose literally everything on earth, including his life? And why are some rich, healthy people so stressed while some of the poorest enjoy deep peace?

As we get more life experience, we begin to understand that peace is not the absence of problems; it's the presence of God. Ultimately, true peace doesn't rely on *externals* but *internals*.

Perfect health is not required.

Great wealth is not required.

Fairy-tale relationships are not required.

We find peace when we find God. As Paul wrote in Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Are you looking for peace? Look for God first, and you'll sleep well.

Appeal: It's now time to return God's 10% tithe and give the Promise offerings, which we are encouraged to pre-plan and set aside as a percentage of our income this week. Are you seeking financial peace? Being faithful to God in tithe and offerings can give you a deep peace that passes understanding. Thank you for your faithfulness.

SPD Strategy - Comprehensive Media Evangelism

Compassionate Capitalism

Here's a question: As Christians living in money-powered, increasingly capitalist societies, how can we be productive members of society whilst still being Christ-like, selfless, servants to all people?

Have you heard the term 'compassionate capitalism'? It's been used in various ways, but it holds the key to answering our question above when rightly implemented.

Compassionate capitalism isn't a new concept. Four thousand years ago, Abram was told in Genesis 12:1-3 that he would be greatly blessed by God. Why was God giving Abram the blessings? So that he could be a blessing to all. Abram was blessed to be a blessing—that's compassionate capitalism right there.

And two thousand years ago, Jesus encouraged his followers to share their profits. In Luke 6:38, Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Ever since Jesus spoke these words, His true followers have sought to live by them.

In 1 Timothy 6:17-19, the Apostle Paul commanded "the rich"—who were often capitalists by word and action—to "be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share." Compassionate capitalism is simply us reflecting the creativity, generosity and love of God. It is following God's will.

Whatever your situation, an essential key to bridling self-centred, capitalist tendencies is to give compassionate service to others.

Appeal: It's now time to return God's tithe and give the Promise offerings, which we are encouraged to pre-plan and set aside as a percentage of our income this week. Let's ask God to help us always be compassionate as we faithfully manage the many blessings He has given us. Thank you for your faithfulness.