

Review: Biblical Economic Policy

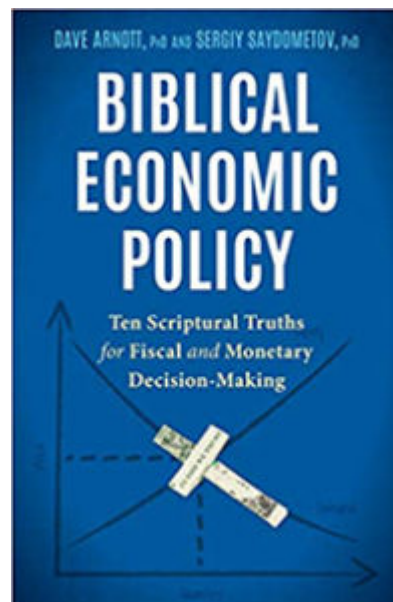
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Biblical Economic Policy: Ten Truths for Fiscal and Monetary Decision-Making

Dave Arnott and Sergiy Saydometov (Deep River Books)

What does the Bible say about economics? Dallas Baptist University professors Dave Arnott and Sergiy Saydometov set out to answer that question in *Biblical Economic Policy: Ten Scriptural Truths for Fiscal and Monetary Decision-Making*. The authors assert “the Bible has something to say about all these critical present-day issues,” and they thoroughly explore how Scripture and economics meet.

Biblical Economic Policy is built upon the foundation of a biblical worldview. Throughout the book, everything is approached with a “neighbor before self” mindset that turns a secular approach on economics on its head. Arnott and Saydometov make clear Christian economics involves making biblical choices as opportunities arise. They remind Christians we are stewards of God’s creation who “must see our work within the larger perspective of God’s plan for the restoration of his creation” (p. 31).



The authors present a moral standard to make the case the fundamental truths of Christianity should drive every part of life, especially economics. Arnott and Saydometov offer as “Ten Commandments of Biblical Economics” the following: (1) People should be free; (2) Work is good; (3) Don’t steal; (4) Don’t covet; (5) Use honest measures; (6) Trade is good; (7) Love your neighbor as yourself; (8) Take care of widows and orphans; (9) Be a good Samaritan; and (10) Honor those in power.

These principles not only offer a means to figure out how the Bible informs economical thinking, but also serve as a useful guide to navigate the stormy waters of money and finances on a practical basis.

While “the Bible does not prescribe a particular form of government or a particular economic system ... the biblical perspective does contain principles conducive to political, economic and religious/moral freedom,” (p. 42), the authors state. So, Arnott and Saydometov assert a free market is the most accurate and caring system of economics humans can formulate, centered heavily on loving one’s neighbor as oneself. “That’s the beauty of free markets: producers use their private property to provide services for their neighbors” (p. 70), they write. While no system is perfect,

free markets contribute most to human flourishing, they insist.

As they connect scriptural truths to economic systems, Arnott and Saydometov bring their knowledge, passion and energy to promote a biblical way of economic living. This book is a gripping read that engages readers to ask: “Is this the way we’re supposed to run a biblical economy?” By captivating their audience and using real examples of good and bad economic practices, Arnott and Saydometov deliver a profound reminder—for Christians, stewardship is not about self-improvement but about making choices that please and honor God.

Brooks Anthony, student

Dallas Baptist University