



# Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

Don't you hate it when work gets in the way of life? The Europeans have always had the edge on summertime: most expect at least a month off. Americans work more during summer, but make up for it with the year-end holidays. From Thanksgiving to New Years, historically, performance slips while the eggnog and Christmas parties surge. *Maybe not this year...*

It'll be coal-in-the-sock around Washington for Christmas 2008. Detroit and Seattle may be having layoffs, but there's a hiring boom around the Capitol Beltway. Lots of positions - from Cabinet to Custodian-in-Chief - will be filled by the time the ball falls in Time Square. *What are the qualifications for the people in the new government?*

Bipartisan? There's no history of either party populating positions of power with folks from "the other side of the aisle." While there may be a token here or there, don't expect much. I'm much more concerned about whether capitalism will have a chance to survive...

There's a boisterous backlash to the financial crisis right now; fingers are pointing at Capitalism as the real culprit. But, is it the system? Or, is the ideology subject to malignment if used by unscrupulous practitioners? *Will any Capitalist be welcome in the Halls of Hope and Change?*



Paul Johnson, writing in **Forbes** two weeks ago, said this: "... we need to accept that this is fundamentally a moral crisis, not a financial one. It is the product of the self-indulgence and complacency born of our ultraliberal societies, which have substituted such pseudo-religions as political correctness and saving the planet for genuine distinctions between right and wrong and the cultivation of real virtues."

Translation: *it isn't capitalism that is corrupt... but there are corrupt capitalists who have used the system to benefit only themselves, at the expense of real virtues.*

**Capitalist:** *A wealthy person who uses money to invest in trade and industry for profit in accordance with the principles of capitalism.* Arthur C. Brooks studied philanthropy in America and wrote of his findings in **Who Really Cares: The Surprising Truth About Compassionate Conservatism**. His conclusion, based on reliable data: *the forces behind American charity are strong families, church*

*attendance, earning one's own income (as opposed to receiving welfare), and the belief that individuals - not government - offer the best solution to social ills.* He shows that giving is crucial to our economic prosperity, as well as to our happiness, health, and our ability to govern ourselves as a free people.

Here's a shocker: when Jesus uses earthly stories to describe heaven and his Father, he painted himself as a capitalist who expected his capital to earn a return, managed by his stewards (see *Matthew 25:14-30*, [www.mastersprogram.org/verse-reference](http://www.mastersprogram.org/verse-reference)).

There's another system afoot: it considers the government to be the best distributor of social capital... and uses taxation to fund the distribution. *Who do you trust to fund your philanthropy: yourself, or the new folks being hired in DC?*

You ought to check out the folks and services offered at the **National Christian Foundation** - - and their affiliates in the Local Christian Foundations ([www.nationalchristian.com](http://www.nationalchristian.com)) and see how they can help you become even more adept at managing your own benevolence. They are trusted friends and partners of **The Master's Program** family of ministries...

Committed to encouraging the biblical foundation on which the philosophies and practices of capitalism can benefit people and advance God's purposes,

Bob Shank

*Bob Shank is Founder and Chief Mentoring Officer of The Master's Program (TMP).*

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*Christmas in Africa:*

[www.mastersprogram.org/register/Africa.aspx](http://www.mastersprogram.org/register/Africa.aspx)