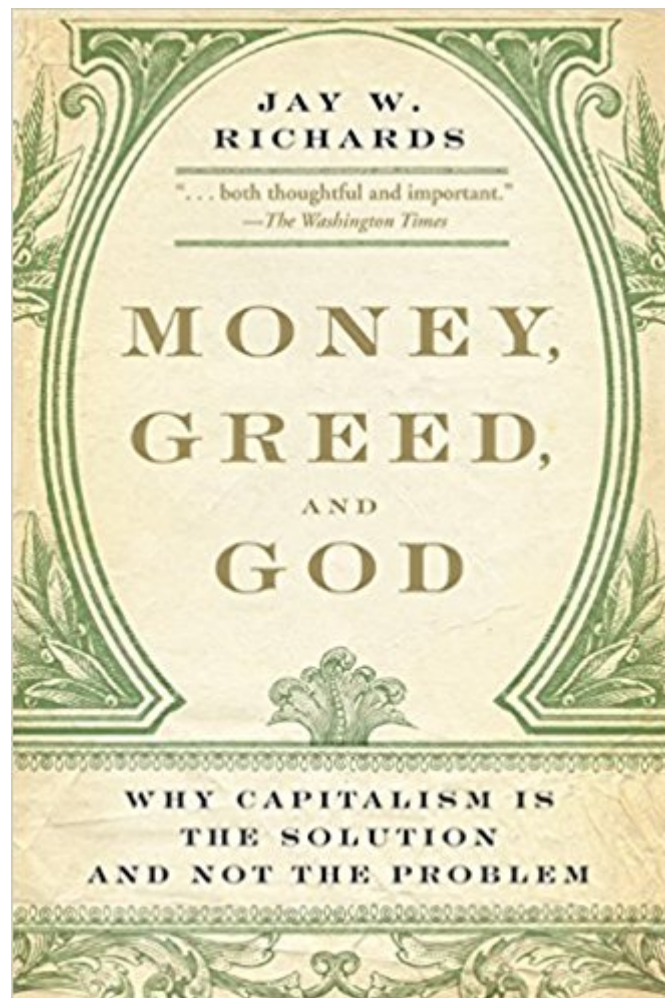




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Money, Greed, And God: Why Capitalism Is The Solution And Not The Problem



Synopsis

In *Money, Greed, and God: Why Capitalism is the Solution and Not the Problem*, Senior Fellow at the Discovery Institute Jay W. Richards and bestselling author of *Indivisible: Restoring Faith, Family, and Freedom Before It's Too Late* and *Infiltrated: How to Stop the Insiders and Activists Who Are Exploiting the Financial Crisis to Control Our Lives and Our Fortunes*, defends capitalism within the context of the Christian faith, revealing how entrepreneurial enterprise, based on hard work, honesty, and trust, actually fosters creativity and growth. In doing so, *Money, Greed, and God* exposes eight myths about capitalism, and demonstrates that a good Christian can be a good capitalist.

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Customer Reviews

“In *Money, Greed, and God*, Jay Richards has written the definitive case for capitalism, a crisply written and incisive discourse on wealth and poverty, money and morality for the 21st Century.” • (George Gilder, co-founder of the Discovery Institute and author of *Wealth and Poverty*) “Jay Richards understands the objections to capitalism, and here explains why they do not convince him. The empirical findings revealed in *Money, Greed, and God* run against those objections.” • (Michael Novak, Chair in Religion and Public Policy at the American Enterprise Institute) In *Money, Greed, and God*, Jay Richards shows us . . . a capitalism grounded in the truth about human beings as free, morally responsible, co-creators charged with dominion and stewardship of the earth by the loving God to whom we are all ultimately accountable. (Rev. Robert A. Sirico, President of the Acton Institute) “*Money, Greed, and God* is both thoughtful and important.” • (Washington Times)

The good news about capitalism Jay Richards presents a new approach to capitalism, revealing how it's fully consistent with Jesus's teachings and the Christian tradition "and our best bet for renewed economic vigor. Money, Greed, and God exposes eight myths about capitalism "including the notion that capitalism is based on greed" and demonstrates that a good Christian can be a good capitalist.

This is now one of my all-time favorite books. I wish I could buy a copy for everyone I know. Jay Richards is an expert in economics and a Christian. Having once been opposed to capitalism himself, he does a great job of explaining the arguments behind anti-capitalist sentiments, and then he effectively explains the inadequacy of those arguments. I've spent a lot of time in many different countries on four continents, and I've seen how every other economic system in the world harms, restricts, and oppresses its people. More than two billion people worldwide are stuck in true poverty and have no opportunity to improve their situation, while we in the U.S. have every opportunity to improve our situation. Even our "poor" live significantly better than the overwhelming majority in the developing world, thanks to the free market economy that has been a foundation of our country since its inception. Given this obvious reality, I've attributed anti-capitalist beliefs to ignorance and folly, but this book helped me to understand the thinking behind those beliefs and now I am equipped to engage in a thoughtful, respectful, and intelligent conversation with people of other views. Thank you, Jay Richards!

The discerning thinker should make a habit of reading books written from perspectives other than his own, with which he or she is sure to disagree, and which will challenge his thinking by presenting views contrary to those he holds dear. For me, this is not that book. For me, this is a book I wish I had written, with which I could find nary a word with which to disagree. Jay Richards is or has been affiliated with the Heritage Foundation, the Discovery Institute, and the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty, for whom I worked for 4 years. Richards spends a chapter tearing apart each of these myths about capitalism: 1. The Nirvana Myth (contrasting capitalism with an unrealizable ideal rather than with its live alternatives) 2. The Piety Myth (focusing on our good intentions rather than on the unintended consequences of our actions) 3. The Zero-Sum Game Myth (believing that trade requires a winner and a loser) 4. The Materialist Myth (believing that wealth isn't created, it's simply transferred) 5. The Greed Myth (believing that the essence of capitalism is greed) 6. The Usury Myth (believing that working with money is inherently immoral or that charging interest on

money is always exploitative)7. The Artsy Myth (confusing aesthetic judgments with economic arguments)8. The Freeze-Frame Myth (believing that things always stay the same--for example, assuming that population trends will continue indefinitely, or treating a current "natural resource" as if it will always be needed)The basic point of Money, Greed, and God, as the subtitle ("Why Capitalism is the Solution and Not the Problem") suggests, is that capitalism, more so than collectivist or socialist solutions touted by many Christians, offers a structure which can foster prosperity and virtue, and, more importantly, is not by its nature in conflict with the Gospel and teachings of the Bible. What he writes is controversial to some, and he does name names, but his tone is friendly, engaging and sympathetic. I get the impression that when he debates people, even people with who he heartily disagrees, at the end of the debate he and his foe can be buddies. Some might argue that Christians who defend capitalism have no regard for the poor. Richards debunks that perspective while providing a thorough, readable defense of capitalism.

Jay Richards does a great job tackling the issues of why foreign aid doesn't work, and the many other unintended consequences of government intervention into the market place. My beef with this book is that it doesn't go far enough. Government is ultimately the problem. We have been living under cronyism (the collusion of big government and big business) and not allowing a free market, the consumer, to determine where the economy is heading. He doesn't get after the idea of a central planned economy through central banking and bubbles bursting that sent the market into a crash in 2008 and still plagues us. Christians can be and should be Capitalists. More so, I urge anyone interested to look into Anarcho-Capitalism. Murray Rothbard, David Friedman, Frederic Bastiat.

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