

Own Goal

In sports, scoring an own goal is not only embarrassing and frustrating, it also results more often than not in overzealous and frantic attempts to make up for it, especially if you or your team is down because of it and you're facing defeat.

This is exactly the picture you can get when observing many Christians in their financial dealings, be it privately or professionally. Any true and dedicated believer would want to glorify God by living in obedience to His commands. However, when it comes to money issues most of us score only own goals and even tend to enjoy it. So either we don't realize what's going on or see this as the only way to score at all.

For example, God warns all believers against ...

- going into debt (e.g. *Deuteronomy 28; Proverbs 22:7*);
- the use of interest (e.g. *Ezekiel 18; Nehemiah 5:11; Luke 19:21-23*);
- the use of false weights and measures (e.g. *Leviticus 12:36; Hosea 12:7; Micah 6:11*);
- exploitation (e.g. *Proverbs 22:22; Isaiah 53:8; 2 Corinthians 11:20; James 2:6*);
- etc.

... and yet, we dare to look into His face and ignore His admonition. Instead of asking, why we shouldn't do it and how to change in our sphere of influence, we field a host of arguments and apparently logic reasons to justify our disobedience. Its like telling our coach that there is no opposition goal to score and that the purpose of playing is to defeat yourself.

Granted, our current interest-driven monetary system with its 100% debt-based fiat money and exploitative fractional reserve banking forces people into servitude to money. But as believers we must not submit to it (e.g. *Matthew 6:24; Galatians 5:1*). Especially considering that it will, by design, always lead to people's exploitation, destruction and death, which is the very opposite of the divine plan and purpose for God's children (*Jeremiah 29:11*). His urgent call to come out of (this) Babylon(ian system) (*Revelation 18:4*) should stir and wake us up, and tell us that it is absolutely possible. Why else would God implore us to get out before its too late?

Figuratively speaking, as long as we maintain that the logic of the world system-based business economics and financial management on money issues is binding, we keep on scoring own goals. By insisting that the world is wiser than God, that the creation has more knowledge than its Creator (see *1 Corinthians 1:20; 3:19*), we actually defeat ourselves.

To stay with the picture, considering the ever so increasing financial mess of the world, our nations, communities, businesses, organizations and churches, which also influences our families and us individually - is it not about time to question and scrutinize the rules, direction and strategy of our current game plan?

Perhaps it needs a paradigm shift to stop scoring own goals?