

## ***Further thoughts on bribery, nepotism, and clientelism as acceptable proofs of living to God***

Biblical Counsels (those \* got used by VCA 2006-2011 in a sermon dedicated to influencing government ministers, officials, or officers):

- \*Exodus 23:8 - do not receive gifts as they corrupt evaluation;
- \*Deuteronomy 16:19 - evade perverting justice due to receiving gifts;
- \*Luke 3:14 - Jesus to soldiers, don't extort & do not falsely accuse;
- \*Proverbs 15:27 - making dishonest profit gets families in trouble; hating gifts strengthens them;
- \*Proverbs 17: 8 - gift giver thinks he has a magic charm that brings him something good! (In Biblical narrative context and combined with the history of Israel being rejected as God's messenger to all on earth, this is saying, "what a fool!")
- \*Proverbs 17: 23 - only the wicked receive money in secret to change decisions;
- Proverbs 28:21 - being partial to another is not good (showing respect for men), but people will do it for a piece of bread;
- Ecclesiastes 7.7 - extortion/oppression (motivation excluding most fees from bribes today) turns wise people into fools, making them mad;
- Amos 5.12 - Israelite judicial history of oppression by denying justice by taking bribes (Matches historical treatment in one article below of the early Jewish nation made captive to humankind due to rejecting obedience to God.);
- Is.1:23 - Leaders loving gifts and gift-giving are rebels and thieves who refuse to defend the rights of orphans and widows justly.

The uses and justification of gifts, nepotism, and clientelism (i.e., patronage) trumpeted once again in our day during a re-embrace of tribally experienced truth to promote the rule of s over others represents the impact from the ages-old technique(s) of Satan. The Deceiver constantly stimulates doubt concerning God's directives which have testimonial support from the Creation, to help selfish souls excuse willful disobedience for self-aggrandizement at the expense of neighbors. Work to see *shalom* re-established on earth, the reconciliation between God, self, others, and Nature completed gets interrupted or halted by consciences hardened to serve or exalt the self selfishly. Such inversion of priority remains the hallmark of false prophets to which Scriptures and experience testify.

Summaries of clear cost analyses now exist. Atheists, agnostics, and those of less clear unbelief now share confidently the same anti-bribe encouragements worldwide, despite their perspectives only having been formable within the historically blessed nation-states created by Protestant Christian worldviews. Even these recognize how the poor get slighted, though Verlin believes their accepted definition of whom the poor consist continues to reject God. (*The 'poor' get typically misdefined as those wanting rather than those who manage God's Creation working by hand, which is the Biblically defined definition.*) - Read this summary at [https://controlbae.org.uk/background/economic\\_development.php](https://controlbae.org.uk/background/economic_development.php) to see how poverty results from failing to crush bribery as defined reflecting Biblical norms to be "*the receiving or offering/giving of any benefit (in cash or in kind) by or to any public servant or office holder or to a director or employee of a private company in order to induce that person to give improper assistance in breach of their duty to the government of company which has appointed them.*"

A brief yet studied introduction to understanding the Biblical narrative explaining God's relational blessing or cursing of humanity sets the context for further reading of this appendix to the 221105 AWA Update. It also provides directional hints as to why God's Word rules rather than the Satanic deception

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using perceptions that discourage many from trusting Jesus as the Messiah to obey completely. The ideas introduced in the next link represent one of multiple theological threads that Verlin researched to develop core understandings to support the use of CHE strategies in Cote d'Ivoire. He learned these and more from God through his experiences within Christian communities, the Holy Scriptures, some written historical Christian experiences, examined scientific advancements consistent with the Bible, and portions of recorded history. - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/themelios/article/a-biblical-theology-of-blessing-in-genesis/>

Modern corporations with enough clout KNOW experientially the benefits of not 'paying to play' using bribes if they avail themselves to this past century of experience recognized before the economic rise of China enabled by the limitations of clientelism warped by Satan. [The Bible does provide instruction and historical trace for investigation of every social power structure used throughout history in nations and empires:

- monarchical/episcopal,
- socialist/presbyterian,
- democratic republic/congregationalist)]

Modern corporate structures, mostly of socialist/presbyterian order, now find that prosperity exponentially multiplies when they ***do not pay to play in governance***. - <https://share.america.gov/u-s-companies-find-it-pays-not-to-pay-bribes/> . *(While some recognize the italicized truth, some have yet to learn the depth to which it must apply for which the experience with China provides correction sooner or later. A later link provides some insight for that circumstance.)*

However, the above article's recounting of American-gathered evidence remains controverted. It's simple, and people like less severe options for step-by-step changes. Real and enduring change takes time to become intellectually integrated, whether abruptly forced or slowly evolved. (Remember, the author considers present American governing authorities as picking and choosing beliefs to justify their behaviors based on selfish rather than God-ordained directives, the latter of which will eventually destroy the prior over multiple iterations or upon the return of the King.) The following linked articles and 'point-of-share' descriptions demonstrate how others see the moral and economic tax imposed by gift-giving being tolerated or reinforced in the human experience. Some of the written efforts seek to understand or limit the human suffering inflicted by bribery, whether the sin against God and His Creation and our fellow humankind be committed volitionally or ignorantly.

This article by Joe Roeber, referenced in the overview provided in the first linked BAE evaluation of Saudi Arabia, grants us a fuller U.K. perspective of European experiences while providing contrast for the just-above shared U.S. Defense Industry / Google experience. It exposes many net destructive impacts that can be potentially alleviated as afflictions of the 'poor' while concomitantly providing 'military protection' for those same populations. Verlin considers these 'potential' alleviations of negative impacts as unlikely salvation solutions. There exists no guarantee or guarantor outside of Christ's indwelling Comforter. Any governmental wish-efforts to support effective centralized measures to relieve and eliminate poverty, as presumed by the author, Joe Roeber, cannot long work apart from recognizing God has provided unchanging and valid instructions for living, transferrable through generations of humanity. (God clearly defines other means through Scriptural revelation through the model given in the O.T. Hebrew Republic, starting with the definition of the 'poor' and Creation in Genesis.) - <https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/magazine/hardwiredforcorruption>

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A Chinese expatriate who seems to be living among Aussies testifies, via the 'thedawnmedia.com' blog, how bribes get profligately used to destroy Western power and influence that developed through protecting personal freedoms. Added to prior reading and experience, Verlin summarized two intellectual tracing benefits of the article by Hua Truong, who remains enigmatic to him:

- 1) The familial dynastic culture of China now expresses power through the CCP to tyrannize their population and others. Their practice of communism represents a facade placed over ancient means well investigated through anthropological studies from Presbyterian/Congregational hegemony perceptual perspectives by those whose ancestors successfully escaped similar 'god-ordained' tyranny.
- 2) This witness grants much authenticity in evaluating China's present experience as parallel to the modern fool's thought that there exists no overseeing God who reveals the hearts and intentions of humankind as passed on in Proverbs 17:8. This does not exclude God blessing that nation should Christian witness there flower and overcome to dominate the oppressor if Jesus lifts them up for purposes other than correction of other unfaithful beings made in His image.

- <http://thedawnmedia.com/china-used-the-bribery-to-destroy-western/>

The below J-Store reference permits a further academic tracing of challenges presented by experiences of bribery, nepotism, and cronyism in Kyrgyzstan. The share provides a good sense of the tensions that remain in cultures when the individual freedoms guaranteed by a larger centralized government continue to get minimized by lower-order clientelism that nation-state structures were to replace by design to provide for greater material blessing. The article traces how the 'corruption'/nepotism/clientelism process works there: -

[https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7591/j.ctt1287dpm.10?seq=1#metadata\\_info\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7591/j.ctt1287dpm.10?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents)

The following linked article excerpt chapter 3 from a book by Kelly M. McMann, who is unknown to me. [Corruption as a Last Resort: Adapting to the Market in Central Asia](#)

\*NOTE - this is a region of the world reported as impacted by the confrontational power model of Christ using CHE as testified in one of Terry Dalrymple's Stories of Transformation. The thought remains current for Verlin that it remains an anachronistic judgment to presume upon another the cultural dominance of Christ for his governance where He has not yet been established as ruler in His people's hearts sufficient to convert the majority of a nation's population at one moment in time. The ills affiliated with clientelism, like bribery, must be named, and their treatment enforced while recognizing transition must happen while carefully evading excusing failure to implement obedience in governance that is compatible to God's revelations as necessary in Creation, History, and Communion. The McMann book intrigues as it offers a systems approach to minimize temptation of bribe payment and reception by suggesting change of resources made available when fighting poverty.

The fact seems to lie plainly apparent per Verlin's prior investigations of clientelism (i.e., patronage) that presumptive errors now undergird what become ineffectual FWB missionary efforts despite stimulated activity. The well-intentioned were deceived into resorting to managing Ivorian believers with money since the mid-1980s even as some continue the practice rather than withdrawing to trumpet the ever lessening returns of what was done in their service measured ambiguously to resist pressing social concerns. The willful error of adopting clientelism as a missiological tool in the W. African context continues getting invalidated on the ground and by worldwide research and experience for any who have eyes to see and ears to hear. Similarly, the church's name continues to be spoken of derisively by non-believers for this error remaining uncorrected. Saints making the same error within other Ivorian

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movements begin corrective actions; some began them more than 25 years or more ago. The evolutionary-based missiological assumptions promoted in the era of missionaries intellectually formed by Eugene Nida's evolutionary assumptions got placed in the pressure cooker of life to seek results using methods of an intellectually irrelevant age. They could not produce per their expectations. The failures led, in the end, to their acting out parts as the 'wicked' while closing their times of service here. Some unintentionally performed acts sufficiently documented for corrective legal action are like those done by well-intentioned Saul, who held the cloaks during Stephen's execution. Some have let themselves be documented as intentionally acting while trying to insist on their personal relevancy for social gain. The personal consequences experienced by believing Ivorians and Americans who disagreed meekly but firmly with the choice to influence believers by purchased loyalty have been attempts at social exclusion. Lying narratives with stimulated but unstated assumptions to displace blame. The over-the-top efforts to preserve some inherited social influence despite the theories' proponents' lack of providing engaging examples fails and will show to have failed tragically by the end of God's corrective process. Sin always gets found out.

The prior article clarifies well-researched links between clientelism/patronage and bribery, similar to the struggles still regularly encountered in Cote d'Ivoire due to slowness in recognition of poor strategic choices made since the Student Volunteer Movement (SVM). These errors are commensurate with the evils of clientelism/patronage played out in the N.T. Corinthian church, seeing similar ends, except that confession and means of repentance by the perpetrators be found in their returning to their Bethel (Review the history of Jacob and Esau). The following link further appears to trace out the practices through 70 democracies that adopted the nation-state model. The abstract reads as if the study was built recognizing one of Thomas Sowell's intellectual assumptions for anthropological research: *When you want to help people, you tell them the truth. When you want to help yourself, you tell them what they want to hear.* I only read the abstract for now. As truth does not vary, the same dynamics appear in churches as in other institutions. - [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1449001](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1449001) (Thomas Sowell's work on Race and Culture remains the best primer for choosing effective means of missionary planning to see Jesus Christ lifted up.)

The 221105 AWA Update sharing how M helped another confess his sin reflects the above-cited changes and corrections that God superintends through the Holy Spirit's ministry among believers as we all get individually transformed while incorporated within a single body, the church.

Americans are heirs of those who sought to achieve the restoration of their relationship with God through the Hebrew Republic model of governance. The resulting constitutional design permits maximum personal and familial freedom to do right while depending upon citizens to responsibly act guided by the virtues defined by our Creator, who is/was considered to have spoken to humankind through history and endowed each made in His image with inalienable rights. This below-linked abstract of a clientelism study concerns a historical Dutch experience that informs the reader of where to look for results within a Western culture where populations were slower to adopt some centralized means to protect individual freedoms. - - <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/clientelism-interests-and-democratic-representation/constraints-on-clientelism-the-dutch-path-to-modern-politics-18481917/2D1DFC8D6A13A50430224A7CC2B43D67>

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Unfortunately, while the errors of bribery/nepotism/clientelism have been clearly documented throughout history, Satanic deceptions continue to enslave many due to Christian incompetencies when called upon to perform belief-based actions. Such is the measure of our human frailty and foible. Satan continues to confound the unbelieving and to deceive the believers as He can, casting doubt on what God has revealed and affirmed. Verlin suspects that the previously excerpted book by Kelly M. McMann traces more of the continued inertia and resistance to God's Sovereign Rule on earth while acknowledging how opposition to God's intents continue to carry the fight despite Jesus having done all the hard lifting work.

Below are some further examples that clarify the transformation of Romans 12:1-2 being lived by M, subject of the 221005 AWA Update:

Culturally supported judgments err when failing to recognize spiritual transition is necessary to support a transition from clientelism and bribery to living out Peace and Goodwill to all. The physical and social transition needed only durably happens when accompanied by the spiritual transformation enabled by Jesus and the indwelling Holy Spirit.

An example: the non-monetary bribes present in a recent Polish example of nepotism, cronyism, and clientelism got considered as tolerably acceptable except powers external to the culture made discovery of them to be crimes: <http://www.corruptie.org/the-other-corruption-nepotism-cronyism-clientelism/>

A persistent problem to confront: there continues to be a popular pushing of moral paradox(es) on the utility of using bribes despite clear evidence of bias and harm discovered, rediscovered, and continuing to be exposed. The push degenerates truth-seeking behaviors. The modern manufacture of paradox to hide favoritism despite known harms, or chosen ignorance of them, is knowingly maintained for profit by presenting the issue as a moral quandary or 'gray area' for decision making:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-11957514>

The hypocrisy of the wicked shows itself in the above and the selective persecution of poorer parties, or those choosing not to resist, to maintain the appearances for good intentions to get accomplished. The following links to a good example of modern-day active Pharisaism attacking the poor and culturally unintegrated. The perceived weak get selected for the punishment of bribery charges despite larger culturally connected companies paying bribes and politicians receiving such gifts to influence their decision-making. The latter party exerts much greater destructive influence on the sharing of bounty getting distributed to those loving The Source of society's wealth given of God and generated by the activity of his 'poor' to be enjoyed by them and their leaders: - <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-tribal-official-pleads-guilty-bribery-scheme>

An encouragement to take: at least, there is some fightback in the secularist press against further eroding God's express commands that shows why it remains a bad idea to legalize bribe-paying even for secularists, as it would harden the problem. - <https://blogs.iadb.org/efectividad-desarrollo/en/seven-reasons-why-it-would-not-be-a-good-idea-to-legalize-bribe-paying/>

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Unfortunately, corruptly ordained church representatives and emissaries substitute human reasoning to dismiss God's Word as continuing relevant for faith and practice in this domain. Some think only incompetent politicians grasp defeat from the jaws of victory! Hardly so. It can happen to us all.

In a gentle rebuke, the below-linked ***Christian Courier*** article shares many commonly recognized Biblical corrections to gift giving and clientelism for governance within and about the American church experience. It explains at the end how popular practices of today's churches support the mentality needed to justify bribery. - <https://christiancourier.com/articles/the-christian-and-bribery>

However, American missionaries in training remain simply misled by out-of-date, Darwin evolutionary theory-based reasoning. The following linked article resorts to name-calling to disarm the many believing as we do. Such is the tactic of all lacking God's resources of resupply when fatigued: if evidence and reason fail, resort to name-calling based on flimsily purported appearance! Jesus had the facts on his side when he called out others as vipers. Defamation is the only recusal argument of weight in what follows as an attempt to justify bribery and clientelism by posing a moral paradox to the reader. The author could not use any good scholarship. There remains no good scholarship on the side of giving bribes and participating in clientelism to advance God's kingdom, except it is considered a sinful habit yet to be overcome by assiduous attention. The following missiology argument used to train missionaries to support bribery as a morally BETTER option, albeit only at times, documents this receding perception. Reading the above-shared info presents resolutions to most of the objections stated as raised in the moral paradox engaging article that follows. The author, therein, seeks to remand history and supports the giving of bribes despite what has been more than adequately addressed for correction in previous considerations of history, research, and modern experience. The author likely chooses to provide disinformation to protect some interest, in Verlin's perception. The article thereby represents modern-day believers again getting snow-blinded by Satan's use of information-heavy, inappropriate contextualization arguments that sound reasonable in dismissing explicit Biblical instructions due to cultural backsliding. This happens despite the Biblical text's reinforcement and records of superior historical costs lived by Christian communities having committed the error previously. The author seems complicit in rejecting the above-cited testimonies researched from the Creation of the unredeemed via scientific approaches. People choose with deceptive hearts, except they align themselves to God's revealed Word for the final guide. Unrecognized by the article's author, it purports the same error of reason that God's Holy Spirit used to push Martin Luther into leaving the institutions of Roman Catholicism. - <https://edensbridge.org/2017/03/14/christians-and-bribery/>

A more balanced, acceptable missiological approach gets advised within the following account for the challenge missionaries face to evade abandoning faithfulness to the Biblical record, which will testify against us to our God against any unconfessed disobedience. - <https://missionexus.org/missionary-ethics-and-the-practice-of-bribery/>

The confusion generated by Satan using moral paradox is not limited to bribery, nepotism, and clientelism (i.e., patronage). He regularly uses the three temptations made to Eve with Adam, then Jesus, which were later defined by the Apostle John in 1 Jn 2:15-17, to continue detouring humans to

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self-destruct and practice self-masochism. The delights of living within God's presence cannot be experienced by the willfully disobedient. Such get leftovers, which are usually sufficient only for a time.

Here are some additional examples for explaining how widespread U.S. Christian debate(s) miss the essential points focusing on minors rather than majors (for later additions to the one following on 221105) :

C.T. on Christian Nationalism - <https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2022/october/evangelical-christian-nationalism-nationalist-midterm-pew.html> -

The author misses or ignores the historical arc driving nations to accept the tyrannical rule of any person or group rather than alternatively thriving through representative governance with corporate weaknesses to be explored and overcome by communal effort.

The above link is another example of simplified ignorance informing political discussion rather than careful study through the history of results from choices made. In all cases, no tyrannical Christian rulers successfully exceeded the death-cult developments of non-Christian (including Muslim) and secular tyrannies (Viet-Cong, Nazi, Communist, CCP). That the accusatory finger-pointing against rule by believers is used to silence opposition to much worse options for choosing rulers becomes clear on any simple or intense historical review of how political power gets used in aggregated populations. While I personally prefer Christians to be allowed to debate openly in a pluralistic society, Jesus sets down the sword to pick it up at other appropriate times. This article fails to see Jesus as King or the primary Trinitarian person of theophanies (Christophanies) in the O.T. (see <https://www.gotquestions.org/theophany-Christophany.html>). The author reminds me of the historically and theologically challenged Californian pastor who wrote and spoke that America was never a Christian nation because the nation never had a majority Christ-confessing population. He did not sufficiently study Geneva-based reformers or English law precedents or read enough American Historical documents concerning the nation's founding to understand that 'Christian nation' refers to accepting Judeo-Christian Biblically understood truth as foundational glue for teaching and discerning truth, myth, story, and pursuit for the common culture.