

- I. Thomas Jefferson was wrong
 - A. "We hold these truths be self-evident, that all men are created equal ..."
 - i. As a Deist, Jefferson believed in an impersonal, rational Creator
 - ii. Equality is not self-evident
 - iii. This nation was not founded on equality
 - B. Where do human rights come from?
 - C. The idea of equality must come from somewhere else ...
 - i. Equality in creation (Genesis 1:27; Acts 17:26)
 - ii. Equality in sinfulness (Romans 3:9-11)
 - iii. Equality in redemption (Galatians 3:28)
 - iv. Equality in judgment (Psalm 75:2; Galatians 2:6)

- II. Do not believe the message that poverty and riches preach
 - A. Poverty and riches preach inequality (Proverbs 10:15)
 - B. King Agur understood the temptations of each (Proverbs 30:7-9)
 - i. Poverty tells us we are worthless
 - ii. Riches tell us we are worthy

- III. Instead, believe the message of the Kingdom that Jesus preaches
 - A. Everything in the first list is bad
 - B. Everything in the second list is good
 - C. But we live in a twisted world
 - D. One day God will overturn this world in judgment and grace
 - i. Grace to the poor who trust the Lord
 - ii. Wrath to the rich who trust in their riches
 - iii. There is nothing wrong with wealth! But in our sin we put it in God's place.
 - E. God, not wealth or happiness or popularity, runs the world.

- IV. So what do we do?
 - A. Don't "spiritualize" this passage. Instead, all who listen, act on it.
 - B. How *not* to obey this passage ...
 - C. Christian care of the poor: method, principle, and goal.
 - i. Sacrificial giving is the ongoing method for Christian care of the poor. (Acts 11:29-30; 2 Corinthians 8:3; Philippians 4:14)
 - ii. The principle of distribution is equality (2 Corinthians 8-9).
 - iii. The goal of Christian care of the poor is the ability to work to provide for their own needs and give to others. (2 Thessalonians 3:10-13; Ephesians 4:28)

- V. How do we know that Jesus' promise will come true? (2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:5-11)