

Christian History

Historical topics of importance

- Commercialization of salvation in historical expressions of Christianity, from the NT to the high/late middle ages to American decisionism.
- Monasticism deserves special attention, especially in light of misrepresentations about asceticism (Cf. Willard, Weber).
- History of the current conservative/liberal, free-market/statist dichotomies.
- Work and Sabbath in historical-theological perspective.
- Naming the economics of Christian “traditions” is important at various intervals (Cf. Keller, Foster). Is there a Baptist “tradition” with economics?

The economy and history

- God can be spoken of “economically.” God’s self-disclosure is economy.
- Church historians are sensitive to God’s electing, creating, sustaining, and redeeming actions as they are expressed in history.
- Can history be spoken of as God’s *oikos*?

The role of church historians in faith-economics

- As lexicographers, we offer descriptive narrative and frameworks to challenge paradigms.
- Historians perform a kind of indoctrination and de-doctrination.
- What would a Crouchian quadrant graph look like for theo-economic historiography?

Economic periodization

- For ON purposes, church history might be broken up into economic periods.
- Charlie suggested 33-476, 476-800, 800-1096/1215, 1215-1517.
- Nathan recommended making the topical approach primary, chronological secondary for ON events/materials.

The need for marketing

- Lacunas should be addressed strategically and specifically.
- Themes should be topical and chronological. The symposium model looks best.
- ON has defined our target market: seminaries and pastors.
- We have a need of linking with historical specialists. This is an opportunity to bring them in.
- Link up with historical celebrations. 2017 will be a big Reformation year. Nathan encouraged us to name the economic issues of the late medieval period in the Holy Roman Empire.
- A next meeting should be scheduled to set up a schedule of topics and tasks.

Topics of interest:

History of Faith and Work

History of Christianity including Faith and Economics

History of Social Involvement

The rise of the Middle class following the Crusades by the survivors who were granted their freedom if they participated in the Crusades

History of Commercialization

The History of “Commercial Metaphors” of Salvation

Debt/Payment

Treasury of merit

Purgatory

God as Creditor

Money

Work-Life Ethic

“Oikos”—to Serve

“Oikonomia”—Economy should inform our way of life—Godhead/Trinity

Old Testament and Medieval Usury

Prosperity Theology

Monastic Orders and the Constant Battle against Wealth

Between Sabbaths—What do we do?

Man’s first day of existence is the Sabbath

Is Work a Threat to the Sabbath?

The History of Church/State Issues—Economies move us to . . .

The History of the Liberation Movement