

New Testament

1. Table Reports (on current projects related to integration of faith and work):
 - a. John Taylor reported that he has finished an article on the “theology of work” from 1 and 2 Thessalonians.
 - b. Keith Reeves has developed and plans to present two classes (10-12 hours each) on “Biblical Theology of Wealth” and “Stewardship and Wealth.” They will be part of Logos’ Mobile Ed curriculum.
 - c. Jim Hernando reported that he has finished a chapter, “Money Matters in the Kingdom,” in a book edited by Steve Lim on whole-life discipleship.
2. Suggestions for Future Interaction:
 - a. Have an email list of attendees and share resources that come across your desk, especially those that pertain to each other’s projects or declared interests.
 - b. Report current projects being worked on and points of challenge or opportunities. E.g., John Taylor reported that there is still room in the Sept. 18-19 New Testament and Economics Colloquium held at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. This will take place under auspices of the Land Center for Cultural Engagement and will be sponsored by The Kern Family Foundation.
3. General Ideas Discussed (for further study/research):
 - a. Elaborating on the economic world of the OT and NT.
 - b. Caution was given: For example, the discovery of the economic background of the NT world is not necessarily an endorsement of practices therein, or of a particular system of economics. It is more fruitful to emphasize what is said/taught (e.g., by Jesus in the Gospels) that would provide critique on economic practices.

We first talked about any writing we have done this past year. Several of us wrote articles that we presented at professional societies. For instance, Jim Wicker wrote: “An *Assarion* for Your Thoughts: A Plea for the Transliteration of NT Numismatic Terms” and presented at the Evangelical Theological Society southwest regional meeting, Dallas, March 7, 2014. I hope to get it published in a journal.

We then talked about the need for work to be done in our area: the New Testament and Economics. John Taylor and I told the group about a conference this September that the Foundation is helping us host. John talked about who is coming and the topics he knows of so far. For instance, I am going to complete further research on the topic that I mentioned above, as well as address the difficulties of understanding first century coin values in the 21st century and the vast differences in the first century economy in Palestine and the economy in North America today. John mentioned that we have some prominent scholars coming, such as Darrell Bock and Craig Blomberg. He also said there are a few spots still open. We plan to hold the NT conference every other year, and our OT professors will do an OT version in the intervening years. We also talked about publishing a book from the papers presented—probably half of it as an introduction to the subject, and the other half on specialized issues.

We compiled a list of all of our email addresses and plan to stay in closer contact with each other this year. We want to let each other know about research/presentations that we are doing, good books and articles that we come across, etc. For instance, I think others would benefit from reading a good article that appeared in Christianity Today last January. Its author documented (after doing extensive research) that in countries in the last 200 years where evangelical missionaries went, economies are flourishing.

Neighboring countries that barred missionaries have terrible economies. I find this to be quite interesting.

Other than that, we talked about areas of interest on the subject of the NT and economics.

We had a very fruitful conversation. We greatly enjoyed the breakfast as well as our time together with colleagues in the same discipline.