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An Approach to Biblical Economics & The Theology of Praise

James E Curtis, Jr.

December 25, 2017

Abstract Consider an economy where religious, non-profit organizations attempt to maximize their remaining revenue, for instance, to enlarge their endowment and provide new or enhanced services. Let remaining revenue equal total revenue minus total costs, where remaining revenue is determined by the costs of employees, the costs of volunteers [which is set to zero], the costs of facilities, equipment and professional services, and the costs of *donated* facilities, equipment and professional services, where outputs, for religious non-profit organizations, may include denominational ordinances, Sunday/ mid-week services, uncertified and certified training, transition services (counseling, weddings, funerals), and social services (food, clothing, shelter, transportation, referrals), where remaining revenue is maximized based on the ability of religious, non-profit organizations to turn inputs into outputs at market prices. Remaining revenue can be maximized through vertical integration of all outputs, or through a horizontal analysis [of each output individually, where n situations where perfect competition exists. For instance, there are: many religious, non-profit organizations; many consumers; perfect information among organizations and consumers; and no barriers to starting an organization or exiting the market. Curtis, Jr. (2010, 2017) focuses on the instance where minimizing costs also produces the maximum remaining revenue such that theological praise is measurable by the social planning effectiveness of the Kings of the Old Testament of *The Holy Bible*, a business manager/owner grouping in the days of Israel, or leaders of the Seven Churches of The New Testament of *The Holy Bible*.

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THEOLOGY OF PRAISE
Syllabus ■ The Enduring Faith Center ■ PO Box 3126, Washington, DC 20010 ■ enduringfaith@jecjef.net

Course Information

QUARTER: Summer 2010
COURSE: Theology of Praise
CLASSROOM: New Commandment Baptist Church, 625 Park Road NW, Washington DC 20010
DATE & TIME: Tuesday and Thursday, 7:05 – 8:45 PM

Teacher Information

EMAIL: enduringfaith@jecjef.net
PHONE CALL: (202) 739-1962
TEACHER: James Curtis Jr, PO Box 3126, Washington, DC 20010
WEBSITE: jecjef.net / EnduringFaith

Course Objective

The objective of the course is to develop fundamentals for true praise. This course is going to attempt to successfully integrate the strengths of the instructor, which include economic theory, data analysis, multi-media programming, and Biblical fundamentals, to convey understanding of the source of praise from up above. The only prerequisite for this course is successful completion is a sincere desire to grow.

48 **Course Materials**

49 Students should obtain a copy of the required textbook and refer to the recommended textbooks
50 for additional student resources.

51 **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:** (1) The NKJV Study Bible, New King James Version, Nashville: Thomas
52 Nelson, 1997; (2) The Holy Bible, King James Version, Philadelphia: AJ Holman, 1942; (3) resources
53 are also available at BibleGateway.com, New York: Zondervan, 1995-2009; (4) The Holy Bible (The
54 Everywhere Bible), New International Version, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006;

55 **RECOMMENDED SECULAR TEXTBOOKS:** (5) Varian, Hal R. Intermediate Microeconomics: A
56 Modern Approach, Norton: New York, 1999; (6) Mankiw, N. Gregory, Principles of
57 Microeconomics, Fort Worth: Dryden, 1998;

58 **Course Structure**

59 The structure of the course consists of two lectures, problem sets, a midterm exam and a final
60 exam. All students are expected to meet the following requirements:

61 **ATTENDANCE:** All students should attend all lectures to obtain a full understanding of the
62 materials. *If a student misses a class, the student is responsible for obtaining the information presented*
63 *in class from another student in the class.*

64 **PARTICIPATION:** All students should participate in class discussions. From time to time, students
65 will be asked to work in groups and present solutions to problems during class.

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67 **Course Outline**

DATE	SCRIPTURE	TOPIC
July 20	1 Chronicles 13:1-8	<p>I. "<u>Stomp</u>"</p> <p>I.i. Praise and Worship: Lift Jesus Higher</p> <p>I.ii .Scripture Readings: 1 Chronicles 13:1-8 Joel 2:25 Exodus 12:40-41</p> <p>I.iii. Stylized Facts: Secular Theory Church Annual Report, Monthly Costs</p> <p>I.iv. Definitions</p> <p>I.v. Biblical Research: Matthew 1 Adam to Abraham</p>
July 22	Acts 16:25-34	<p>II. "<u>Breakthrough</u>"</p> <p>II.i. Praise and Worship: Hosana (Mark 11:9-10)</p> <p>II.ii .Scripture Readings: Acts 16:25-34 1 Chronicles 14:11 Isaiah 59:19 Psalm 112:4 Matthew 9:29</p> <p>II.iii. Biblical Research: Matthew 1 Characteristics of the Kings</p>

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The Kings of the Divided Kingdom, Judah and Israel

King of Judah		King of Israel		Righteous or Did Wrong	
Name	Years of Reign	Name	Years of Reign	1 & 2 Kings	2 Chronicles (Kings of Judah only)
1 Rehoboam	17			Did Wrong(1 K 14:21)	
		1 Jeroboam	22	Did Wrong- Golden Calves (1 K 12:28-33)	
2 Abijah	3			Did Wrong(1 K 15:3)	Claims not to Forsaken God (2 C 13:10)
3 Asa	41			Righteous (1 K 15:11)** / But High Places (1 K 15:14)*	Righteous (2 C 14:2-5) / But Temple Treasures (2 C 16:2)
		2 Nadab	2	Did Wrong(1 K 15:26)	
		3 Baasha	24	Did Wrong(1 K 15:34)	
		4 Elah	2	Did Wrong(1 K 16:13)	
		5 Zimri	7 days	Did Wrong(1 K 16:19)	
		6, 7 Omri (& Tibni)	12	Did Wrong(1 K 16:25)	
		8 Ahab	22	Did Wrong(1 K 16:30)	
4 Jehoshaphat	25			Righteous (1 K 22:43) / But High Places (1 K 22:43)	Righteous (2 C 17:3-6***) / But High Places (2 C 20:33)
		9 Ahaziah	2	Did Wrong(1 K 22:52)	
		10 Joram	12	Did Wrong(2 K 3:2)	
5 Jehoram	8			Did Wrong(2 K 8:18)	Did Wrong(2 C 21:6)
6 Ahaziah	1			Did Wrong(2 K 8:27)	Did Wrong(2 C 22:4)
		11 Jehu	28	Righteous (2 K 10:30) / But Golden Calves (2 K 10:29)	
7 Athaliah (Mother of Ahaziah)	7			Did Wrong- Destroyed Family (2 K 11:1)	Did Wrong- Destroyed Family (1 C 22:10)
8 Joash (Son of Ahaziah)	40			Righteous (2 K 12:2)****	Righteous (2 C 24:2)**** / But Worshipped Idols (2 C 24:18)
		12 Jehoahaz	17	Did Wrong(2 K 13:2)	
		13 Jehoash	16	Did Wrong(2 K 13:11)	
9 Amaziah	29			Righteous (2 K 14:3) / But High Places (2 K 14:4)	Righteous (2 C 25:2)
		14 Jeroboam II	41	Did Wrong(2 K 14:24)	
10 Azariah	52			Righteous (2 K 15:3) / But High Places (2 K 15:4)	Righteous (2 C 26:4) / But entered Temple to Burn Incense (2 C 26:16)
		15 Zechariah	6 months	Did Wrong(2 K 15:9)	
		16 Shallum	1 month	?	
		17 Menahem	10	Did Wrong(2 K 15:18)	
		18 Pekahiah	2	Did Wrong(2 K 15:24)	
		19 Pekah	20	Did Wrong(2 K 15:28)	
11 Jotham	16			Righteous (2 K 15:34) / But High Places (2 K 15:35)	Righteous (2 C 27:2)
12 Ahaz	16			Did Wrong(2 K 16:3)	Did Wrong(2 C 28:1-4)
		20 Hoshea	9	Did Wrong(2 K 17:2)	
13 Hezekiah	29			Righteous (2 K 18:3)	Righteous (2 C 29:2)
14 Manasseh	55			Did Wrong(2 K 21:2)	Did Wrong(2 C 33:2)
15 Amon	2			Did Wrong(2 K 21:20)	Did Wrong(2 C 33:22)
16 Josiah	31			Righteous (2 K 22:2)	Righteous (2 C 34:2)
17 Jehoahaz	3 months			Did Wrong(2 K 23:32)	
18 Jehoiakim (Brother of Jehoahaz)	11			Did Wrong(2 K 23:37)	Did Wrong(2 C 36:5)
19 Jehoiachin	3 months			Did Wrong(2 K 24:9)	Did Wrong(2 C 36:9)
20 Zedekiah (Uncle of Jehoiachin)	11			Did Wrong(2 K 24:11)	Did Wrong(2 C 36:12)

III. * "High places and incense burning were dedicated to worship pagan gods" (p.221 NKJV Study Bible, in reference to Lev. 26:30)

IV. ** But Temple Treasures to the King of Syria (1 K 15:18)

V. *** Removed High Places

VI. **** Did right only during the years of Jehoiada the priest

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Definitions

The Definitions of Praise
(<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Praise>)

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition copyright ©2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Updated in 2009. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

praiser
noun
Synonyms: praise, acclaim, extol, laud
1] To express approval or admiration
2] To praise is to voice esteem
3] Acclaim
4] Commend suggests moderate approval
5] Extol suggests exaltation or glorification

Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003

praise [preɪz]
noun
1] the act of expressing admiration, etc.
2] (Christian Religious Writings / Theology) the extolling of a deity or the rendering of homage and gratitude to a deity
3] the condition of being commended, admired, etc.
4] sing someone's praises to commend someone highly
verb
1] to express commendation, admiration, etc., for
2] (Religious Writings / Theology) to proclaim or describe the glorious attributes of (a deity) with homage and thanksgiving

The Free Dictionary

Praise (prəz)
noun
1] Expression of approval, or admiration.
2] The extolling or exaltation of a deity, ruler, or hero.
3] merit.
verb - praised, prais-ing, prais-es
1] To express admiration for.
2] To extol or exalt; worship.

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Definitions and Thesaurus

The Definitions and Thesaurus of Praise
(<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Praise>)

Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. © 2003-2008 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.

Noun

1] praise - an expression of approval
congratulations, extolment, kudos
commendation, approval - a message expressing a favorable opinion
superlative - an exaggerated expression (usually of praise)
eulogy - a formal expression of praise
good word, recommendation, testimonial
compliment - a remark (or act) expressing praise and admiration

2] praise - offering words of homage as an act of worship; "they sang a hymn of praise to God"
worship - the activity of worshipping
hallelujah - a shout or song of praise to God

verb

3] praise - express approval of
salute
applaud - express approval of
exalt, extol, glorify, laud, proclaim - praise, glorify, or honor
eulogize - praise formally and eloquently; compliment, congratulate
gush, rave - praise enthusiastically
commend - express approval of
recommend, commend - express a good opinion of
puff up, puff - praise extravagantly

Collins Thesaurus of the English Language – Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 © HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002

4] praise

verb

4.1] acclaim, approve of, honour, cheer, admire, applaud, compliment, congratulate, pay tribute to, extol, sing the praises of, pat someone on the back

4.2] give thanks to, bless, worship, adore, glorify, exalt, pay homage to

noun

4.3] approval, acclaim, applause, cheering, tribute, compliment, congratulations, ovation, accolade, good word, kudos, eulogy, acclamation

4.4] thanks, glory, worship, devotion, homage, adoration, sing something's or someone's praises

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THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS: A SECULAR APPROACH

171 Consider an economy where religious, non-profit organizations attempt to maximize their remaining revenue [1], for instance, to
 172 enlarge their endowment and provide new or enhanced services. Let remaining revenue equal total revenue minus total costs,
 173 where remaining revenue is determined by the costs of employees, the costs of volunteers [which is set to zero], the costs of
 174 facilities, equipment and professional services , and the costs of *donated* facilities, equipment and professional services, where

175 [1] $\pi = TCR - TCC$
 176 $= PY - TC(Y)$
 177 $= PY - ((wH + w_oH_o) + (rC + r_oC_o))$

178 where outputs [2], for religious non-profit organizations, may include denominational ordinances, Sunday/ mid-week services,
 179 uncertified and certified training, family transition services (counseling, weddings, funerals), and
 180 social services (food, clothing, shelter, transportation, referrals), where

181 [2] $Y = y_1 = H_1^{\alpha_1} H_{o1}^{\theta_1} C_1^{\beta_1} C_{o1}^{\delta_1}$
 182 $y_2 = H_2^{\alpha_2} H_{o2}^{\theta_2} C_2^{\beta_2} C_{o2}^{\delta_2}$
 183 $y_N = H_N^{\alpha_N} H_{oN}^{\theta_N} C_N^{\beta_N} C_{oN}^{\delta_N}$

184 Remaining revenue is maximized based on the ability of religious, non-profit organizations to turn inputs into outputs at market
 185 prices. Remaining revenue can be maximized through vertical integration [3] of all outputs, or through a horizontal analysis [4] of
 186 each output individually,

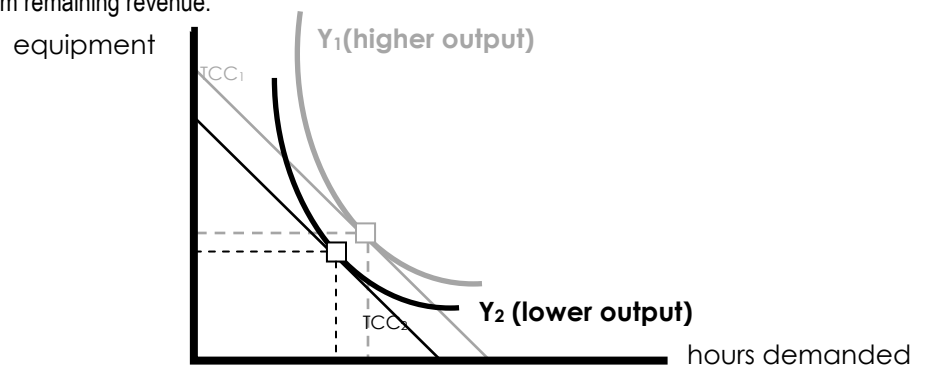
187 [3] $\pi = \sum \pi_i$

188 where

189 [4] $\pi_i = p y_i - ((wH_i + w_oH_{oi}) + (rC_i + r_oC_{oi}))$

190 In situations where perfect competition exists (for instance, there are: many religious, non-profit organizations; many consumers;
 191 perfect information among organizations and consumers; and no barriers to starting an organization or exiting the market),
 192 minimizing costs [5] also produces the maximum remaining revenue.

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Data

Church Monthly Costs, 2007 and 2010

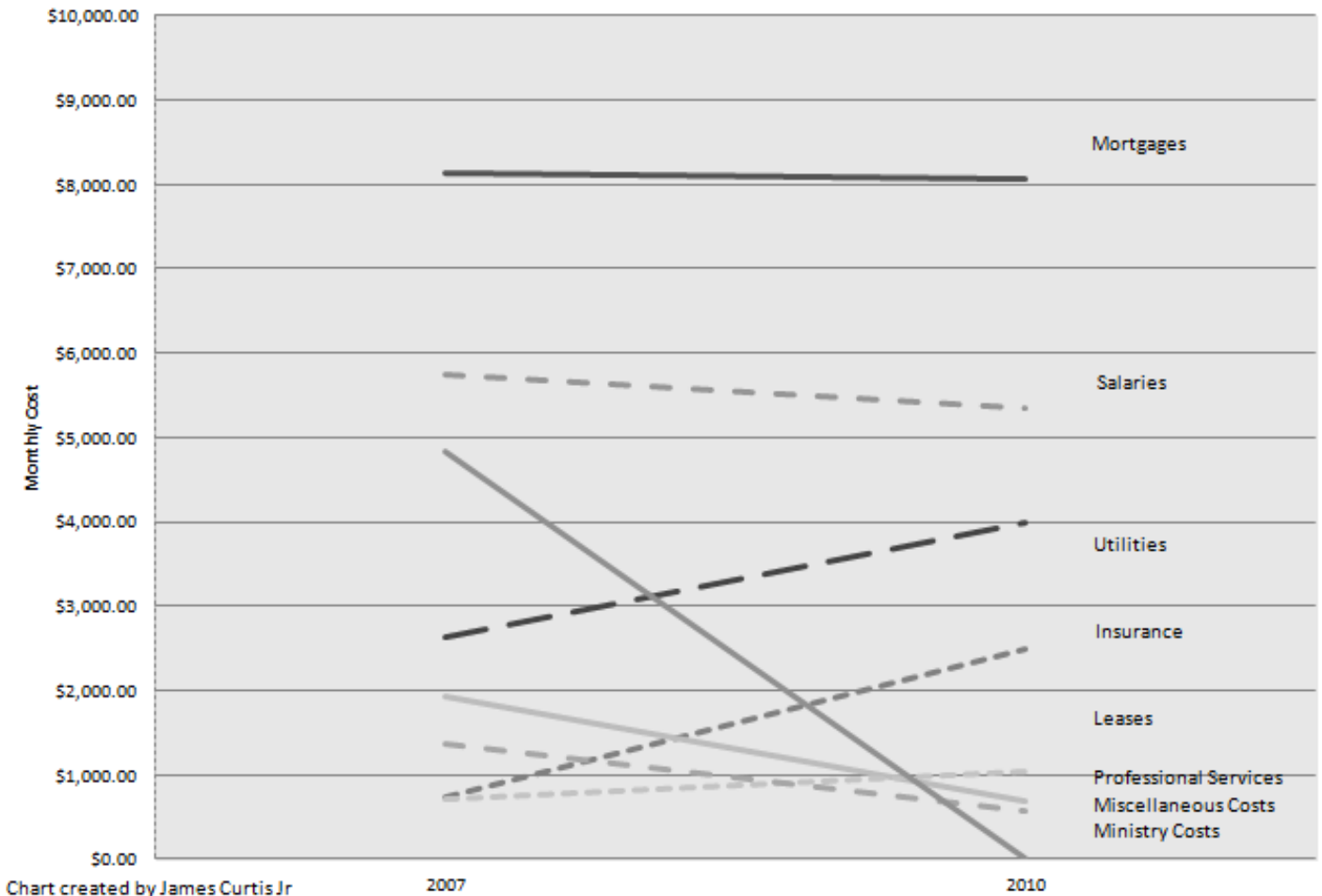


Chart created by James Curtis Jr

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