

Principles on Free Enterprise

Biblical principles can be observed in the traders' preparation process.

Christianity and the profit motive associated with free enterprise are mutually complementary. In order to prosper, one must provide the best product in order to get the best possible price. Further, the more products he is able to sell, the greater the profit.

These traders sought to sell their goods to markets in Mexico. The more products they get to Santa Fé, the more they can sell. Also, care taken to ensure that fragile items are not damaged means that a maximum inventory will arrive unharmed in Santa Fé.

Bible doctrine gives the entrepreneur clues on how to make a profit and how to maximize that profit.

The first order of business for these traders was to pack as many of their wares in the limited amount of space provided and to do so in such a manner that they could survive a 700-mile trip over half a continent without benefit of what is referred to today as infrastructure.

Christianity provides the entrepreneur with norms and standards which will enable him to earn the highest profit on his goods. These principles simply make sure that both the trader and his customers benefit equally in their transactions. Some of these principles can be seen in the following verses:

1 Corinthians 14:40 - Let all things be done professionally and in an organized manner.

Deuteronomy 25:15 - You shall have a full and just weight; you shall have a full and just measure, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.

Romans 12:8 - Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another.

Proverbs 30:24 - An excellent wife makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies belts to the tradesmen.

Colossians 3:23 - Whatever you do, do your work from the soul, as for the Lord rather than for men;

Colossians 3:24 - knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance.

Ephesians 4:28 - Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.