



**FIGHTING FOR**

*JOY*

*1 THESSALONIANS 5:16 (NIV 1984)*

**Be joyful always.**

*ROMANS 12:12A (NIV 1984)*

**Be joyful in hope.**

An aerial photograph of a vast mountain range. The foreground shows a valley with green fields and a winding road. The mountains recede into the distance, creating a sense of depth and scale. The lighting is soft, suggesting either dawn or dusk, with a blueish tint to the overall scene.

*JOY*

FOR  
THE

**POOR**

Everyone faces two tendencies (poor or not)

**Flippancy**



**Bigotry of low expectations**

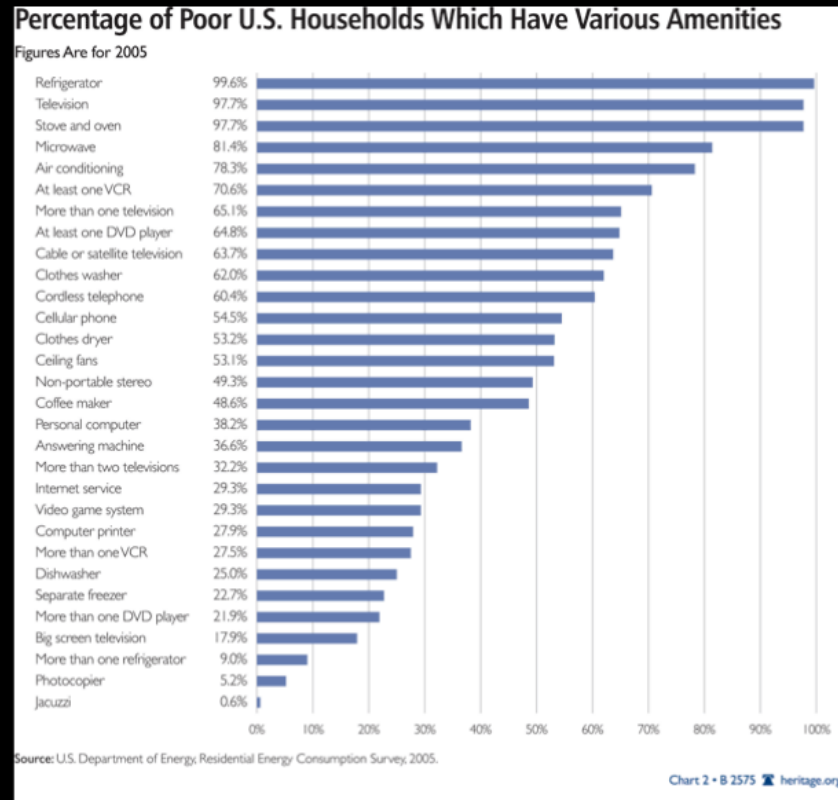
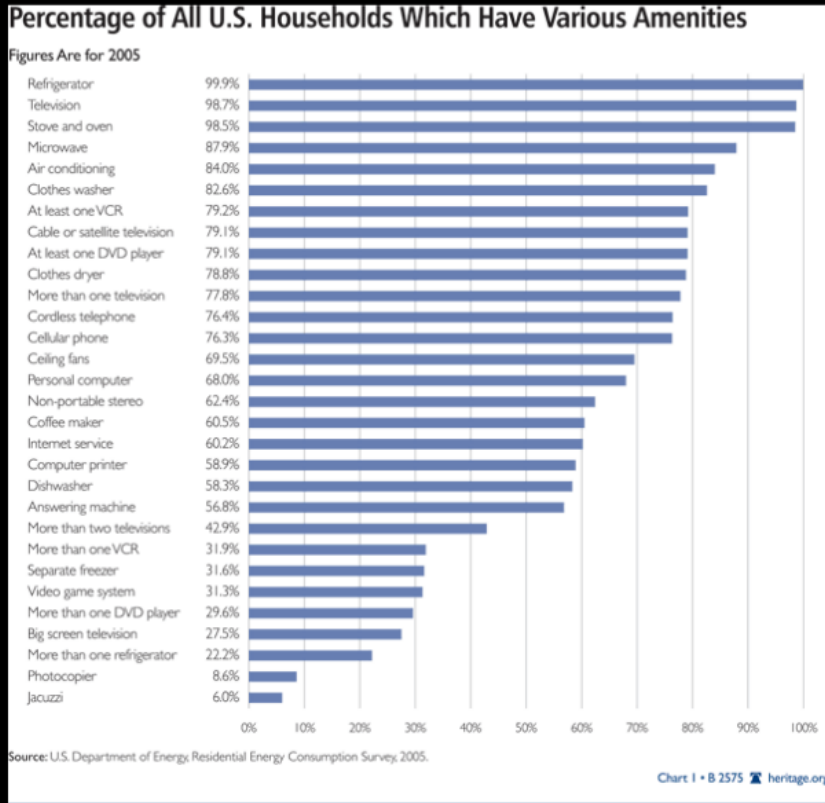
Poverty is the result of failure, and must be left to be overcome by individuals

Poverty is the result of inescapable social injustice, and only we can help them.

(Conservative danger)

(Progressive danger)

# Google: "list of possessions of the poor"

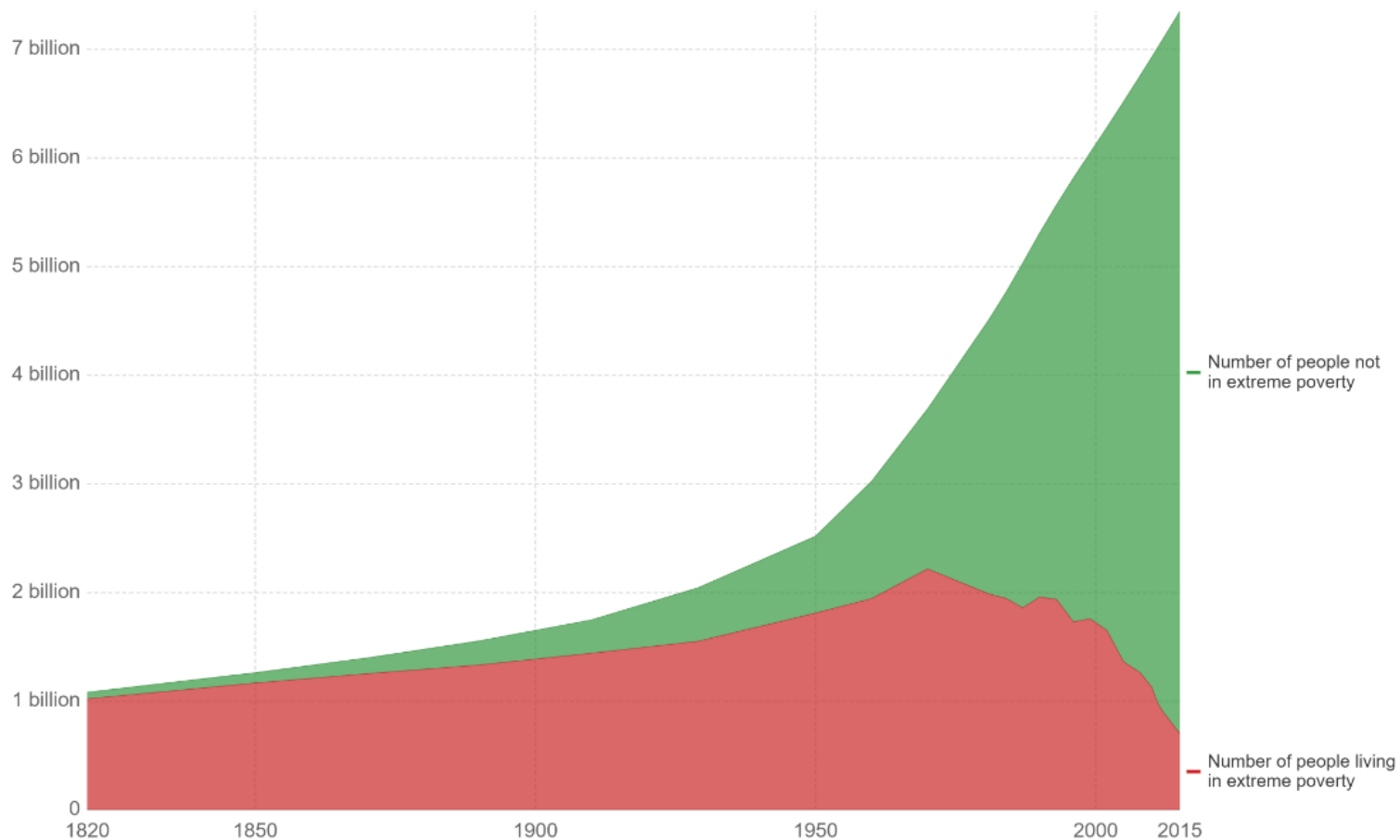


This is not who the Bible is referring to.

## World population living in extreme poverty, 1820-2015

Extreme poverty is defined as living at a consumption (or income) level below 1.90 "international \$" per day. International \$ are adjusted for price differences between countries and for price changes over time (inflation).

Our World  
in Data



Source: World Poverty in absolute numbers - OWID based on World Bank (2016) and Bourguignon and Morrisson (2002)

OurWorldInData.org/extreme-poverty/ • CC BY-SA

Who knows best what we should do with prisoners of war?

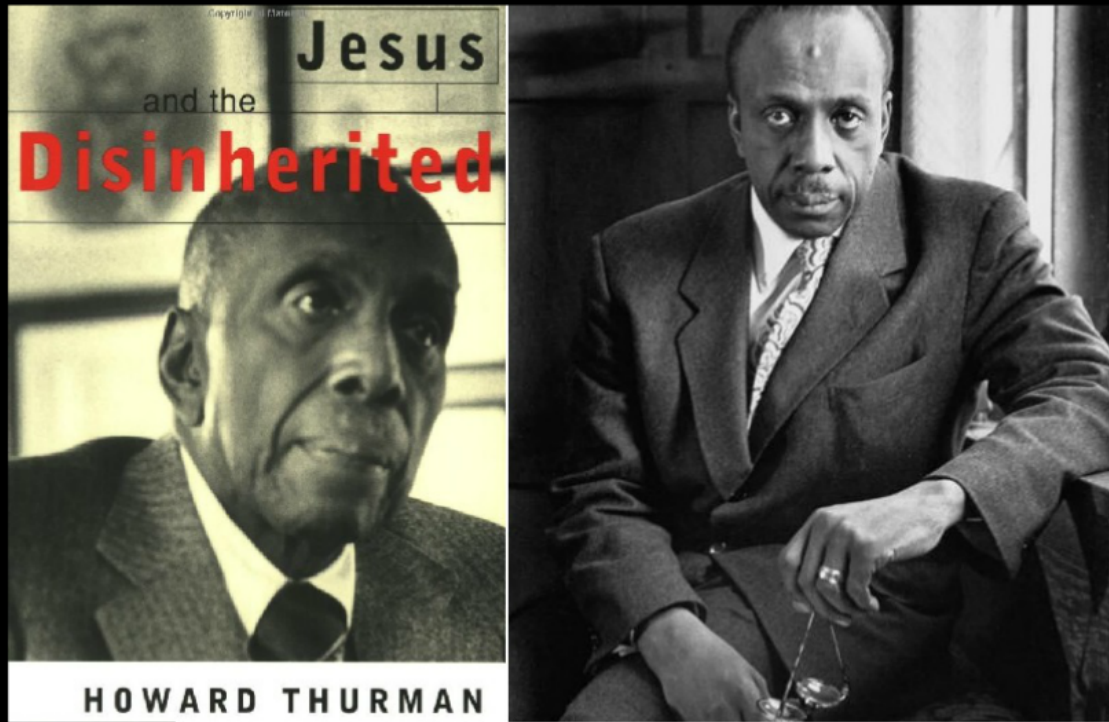




The law we are seeking cannot replace the virtue we require.

The true virtue here is humility





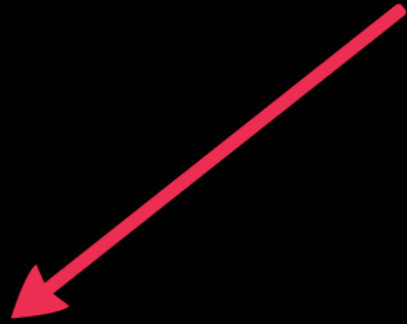
I need an alternatively shaped imagination.

# "Direct Experience" vs. "Direct Contact"

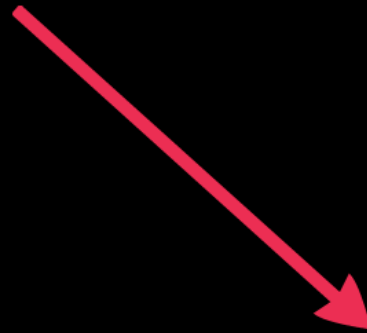
You don't need direct experience of something to talk about it,

but we all need direct contact with people not like us to have our imagination, reflection, humility and sympathies expanded.

Which church would inspire you more?  
Or would like to be a part of?



30% of the  
congregation  
is poor



20% of all dollars  
go to ministries to  
the poor

# Luke 6:20-26

Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets. "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.

But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have already received your comfort.  
Woe to you who are well fed now,  
for you will go hungry.  
Woe to you who laugh now,  
for you will mourn and weep.  
Woe to you when all men speak well of you,  
for that is how their fathers treated the false  
prophets.

Rejoice because...

Jesus doesn't play  
the world's games

(and most of what crushes the poor are the world's games)

# 1. Jesus accepts no games

(In the world's games the odds are all on the house.)



Jesus has a ***worldliness*** doctrine,  
not a ***poverty*** doctrine.

(see 1 Timothy 6, Luke 19)

2. Jesus does not accept the degradations of poverty in you.  
(poverty isn't an excuse for spiritual death)



Two possibilities for "heavenly mindedness"



## Luke 12:2-10

There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs. "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him...

## Luke 12:2-10 cont.

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. "I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God. And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

# 3 Hounds of hell pursuing the Poor:

1. Fear
2. Dishonesty
3. Hatred

*See: Jesus and the  
Disinherited, ch 2-4*



# Jesus' Good News:

1. Fear the one that can kill you AND throw you into hell.
2. Don't you know God sees you and that you are precious to him?
3. You have to tell the truth, or you'll truly die.

# Applications:

1. Believe the gospel—especially if you're poor.
2. Be heavenly minded in an emboldening way, not an intoxicating one.
3. Read the Bible on poverty—it's not that much

# Applications:

4. It's healthy to be troubled about your wealth—are you being seduced by worldliness?
5. Love requires contact. The poor and rich need each other in more than financial exchange. You need their presence.
6. Consider what the poor really require—the truth, friendship, employment.

