

## Greedy, selfish people putting nation at risk

Dan Nelson - pastor

Calvary Chapel of the Ojai Valley

It's happening again! I feel like I have been on this ride before. The headlines are full of shock and woe at the newest crisis that is hitting our financial markets. Another huge firm with ghastly amounts of resources has broken the public trust and individual workers and investors and their families might suffer. Outcries against corporate greed are resounding by news reporters and government officials. Campaign rhetoric and Capitol Hill pundits point fingers of blame at one another. The latest is that the taxpayers may be bailing out another big business failure and they are demanding stricter regulations. Does anybody else sense a problem here? We have regulation against covetousness being proposed by some of the very people that need to be regulated due to abundant desire! It's another case of the fox offering to guard the hen house.

Is it CNN or Fox that we want to crackdown on greed or is it Congress? I should probably mention that the very next report is about pork barrel spending and special interest "earmarked" appropriations by our legislators. All this reported by a "for-profit" news casting company whose content on the television program or computer screen is driven by ad dollars, not newsworthiness: the more viewers, the higher the advertising revenue. Should any of these be our regulators against greed? Is there anyone qualified?

Sometimes you feel like you're rehearsing one of those old "Mission to Mars" episodes where the space explorer is crying out, "Is there any intelligent life out there?" Yet, there is vast intelligence. It's just that we use our intellect to stream smut at vast speeds over high-band width, on-demand trash can be transmitted mobile to mobile, sexual predators are now seducing kids via their cell phones, and we can't decide as a society whether parents are good for their children or bad, or whether marriage should still involve both man and a woman. High-tech devices make it easier than ever for us to eliminate 1 million unborn Americans a year and schools want the power to do this without a mom or dad involved. And people want to use their "trained brain" to debate their rights to do all this and more. Again I anguish, "Is there anybody out there?"

The point I want to make is this; the basic truths that Jesus taught are still true and our human systems that oppose those truths are fundamentally flawed. People are full of sin and no amount of technological

advancement will change that. Instead, we use our "advancements" to our greater folly; to decline as a society even faster. Selfishness is the root of all sorts of evil and it affects CEOs, senators, educators, parents and pastors alike. When we teach our children philosophies of neo-Darwinism and survival of the strong, winners take, losers die off, etc., we shouldn't be so surprised when our cracked theories bear out in negative social consequences. Remember, they were taught that all things are by natural selection and via random mutations; there is no room for right and wrong or ethics there. When we take God out of the equation of human existence, there is no basis for expecting honesty or justice.

We need to get the surprised look off of our faces about what happened on Wall Street. We need to forget about our next candidate saving the world. When the human defect is sin, and true salvation is needed at the core level, there is only one solution. We need Jesus in our lives, today!

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Dan Nelson is a frequent contributor to the Ojai Valley News and currently serves the Ojai Valley Ministerial Association and community as editor of the Religion Column. Permission is freely granted to reprint the article in its entirety. Dan Nelson is pastor of Calvary Chapel Christian Church of the Ojai Valley.



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195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View

**Mid-Week Study:**  
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