

Persuasive Economics

The economic crisis in Europe is one which is shaking the roots of many peoples faith in materialism. The Christian Church is often seen as irrelevant in this and because Christianity is not an economic programme, many Christians struggle to see how their faith has anything to do with the situation. In this seminar we will look at how, although Christianity is not an economic programme, yet the teaching of Jesus Christ has much to say in our current context. We will look at how we can proclaim Christ in and through our economic troubles.

David Robertson is the minister of St Peter's Free Church in Dundee, Scotland (a church that is best known for being the church of Robert Murray McCheyne) and the Director of the Solas Centre for Public Christianity. He is the author of *Awakening* (a contemporary account of McCheyne's life) and *The Dawkins Letters*. The latter has resulted in him being invited to debate and discuss all over the UK and elsewhere in Europe. This has been done in cafes, bars, libraries, universities, pubs, restaurants, village halls, and even occasionally in churches! David is a chaplain at the University of Dundee, columnist, broadcaster and debater. His interests include history, reading, music, politics, theology and football – he supports Dundee FC although his other team is Barcelona! David is married to Annabel and they have three children; Andrew (26), Becky (24) and Emma Jane (15).

I. Introduction

1. What went wrong?

2. How much debt?

3. What does it mean?

II. Leaving God out

1. Inequality and Injustice

2. Theft and Lies

3. Power and Corruption

III. A Third Way?

1. Cyprus and Iceland

2. Britain and Norway

3. Retail Therapy

IV. A Practical Christian Response

1. Ministries of Mercy

2. Remember the Poor

3. Salt and Light

Suggested Reading

Vishal Mangalwadi: *The Book that Made Your World*, Nelson – 2011
Norman Davies: *Europe, a History*, Pimlico, 1997