

## Pastor Enno's Weekly Message

**Dear Friends,**

There are over 2,000 billionaires in the world. Their combined wealth makes up more than 90% of all the wealth of the world. 2,000 people have 9 times more money and assets than 8 billion people (we now have 8 billion people on earth). There is no way that these 2,000 people have worked harder than 8 billion people. They have 'earned' it by lobbying to not raise the minimum wage here in the United States in over 20 years. They have 'earned' it by going to countries that have no minimum wages and governments that don't care about their people and their ecology so the multinational companies can extract material and human goods from them for the profits of the 2,000 billionaires. And we are fighting about drag queen shows, and abortion rights, and book bans. The rich haven't 'earned' it, they stole it legally from those who are not protected and those who are seen to have no worth, and by exploiting the system as it has been set up.

The prophets of the Hebrew scriptures had plenty to say about this, as did Jesus. "Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets." (Luke 6:24-26)

I have a penny jar (actually, a whole change jar full of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters) in my house that I don't have to use for food or housing today. If you have the same, each of us is richer than 94% of the world's population. So, we are part of the 10% elite. But no, we aren't billionaires. We just live in a system where billionaires get the best of everything and answer to hardly any government, much less the people of the world.

Some conservative politicians complain that we don't have money to take care of health care, education, environment, and reparations. They are right. We don't have the resources, but there are 2,000 people in the world who do.

Peace

P.S. Thank you Bruce and Nancy for returning my wayward alb back to its home in time for worship last Saturday.