

REACHING OUT

Lying dormant for many yesteryears, the ideas of religion, ethics and morality emerged as major themes at the 1983 Georgist Conference in Goleta, CA. During the pre-conference and plenary sessions, these topics permeated the spirit of the various workshops. Then, spontaneously, during the banquet speeches, the moral bases of the Georgist philosophy echoed throughout the halls, which was a welcome reminder of years past, when George reached the souls of his listeners as he expressed an eternal moral philosophy. Rather than detract from a focus on the political scene, this important emphasis adds another dimension to our over-all approach. And why not?

Throughout the magnum opus of George are the ever inspiring phrases of the need for moral justice:

"It springs from a law of the human mind; it rests upon a vague and instinctive recognition of what is probably the deepest truth we can grasp. That alone is wise which is just; that alone is enduring which is right."

As George integrated these concepts with land ownership, these tenets of ethics in Western civilization have been amalgamated with the essence of the Bible, which served as a valuable source for George when he contemplated the ideas of moral justice and equity in regard to land ownership. The Georgist philosophy is interspersed with ideas comparable to those articulated in the major sections of the Old and New Testaments. Who can escape the Biblical references to Leviticus and the Psalms:

"The land shall not be sold forever, for the land is mine, for ye are strangers and sojourners with me."

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods."

Blending the precepts of Biblical writings with the powerful message of George is but only natural. Both roots stem from a common source--the eternal truths of justice and morality. Without this source, the philosophy that many Georgists espouse is limited by pragmatism; but with this source our message has no bounds.

Since the issues of hunger, poverty, world peace, land reform and environmental concerns are important to many of the Judeo-Christian groups of the world, then the time may be right for Georgists to focus their attention in establishing dialogues with all denominations that are seeking solutions to today's social ills and crying out for social and economic justice.

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