

## **SPIRITUAL “WELFARE”**

The last several years our nation has moved increasingly closer to becoming a “welfare state.” Surely, no one objects to helping the truly helpless. Americans consistently prove their deep compassion for such. However, something is wrong when people who simply refuse to work are rewarded with support equal to or surpassing what one would earn if he or she worked.

Numerous scandals have rocked the welfare system in recent years. In one case, a woman and her children were put up in a plush New York hotel for several days at tax-payer expense. In Chicago, another woman, using over a dozen aliases, was caught drawing welfare payments from various offices and living like royalty. In Carlsbad, New Mexico, two cases of theft occurred in which large quantities of food stamps **and** considerable sums of cash were stolen **from the same purse**. Many of us may have watched someone in the supermarket checkout line produce food stamps for their food and then produce a roll of money to pay for their wine, beer, and tobacco. God has not repealed His law that says, “If any will not work, neither let him eat” (2 The. 3:10). Easy and uncontrolled social welfare is sapping the initiative of our great nation!

The “spiritual welfare” seen in the church is just as sad. Some saints never have time to become involved in the visiting, teaching, or the physical work necessary to keeping the property attractive. They have money to spend on everything but the Lord’s work. They will not even worship regularly.

In spite of all of their laziness and unconcern, they still want others to wait on them “hand and foot.” Let one of these “welfare” folk get sick or have a death in the family that is not immediately announced (because it was not known) and he/she will loudly complain of “neglect” and “unconcern.” When there is a death or a marriage in such a family, the church is expected to furnish a building, singers, a preacher (and with a wedding, at least one shower), all taken for granted as “their due.” If the name of a family with a perfect three-year record of forsaking the assembly is deleted from the new church directory, you may hear them holler in the next county. Such folk are operating on a “spiritual welfare” basis. They want all of the benefits while accepting none of the responsibilities of spiritual citizenship. Ironically, some who might prate the loudest against social welfare may be the very ones who are practicing “spiritual welfare.” Does not, “If any will not work, neither let him eat,” apply to spiritual matters as well as to physical? Indeed, both of these welfare systems are contrary to God’s will.

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