

Acts Series

Lesson #54

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Dean Bible Ministries

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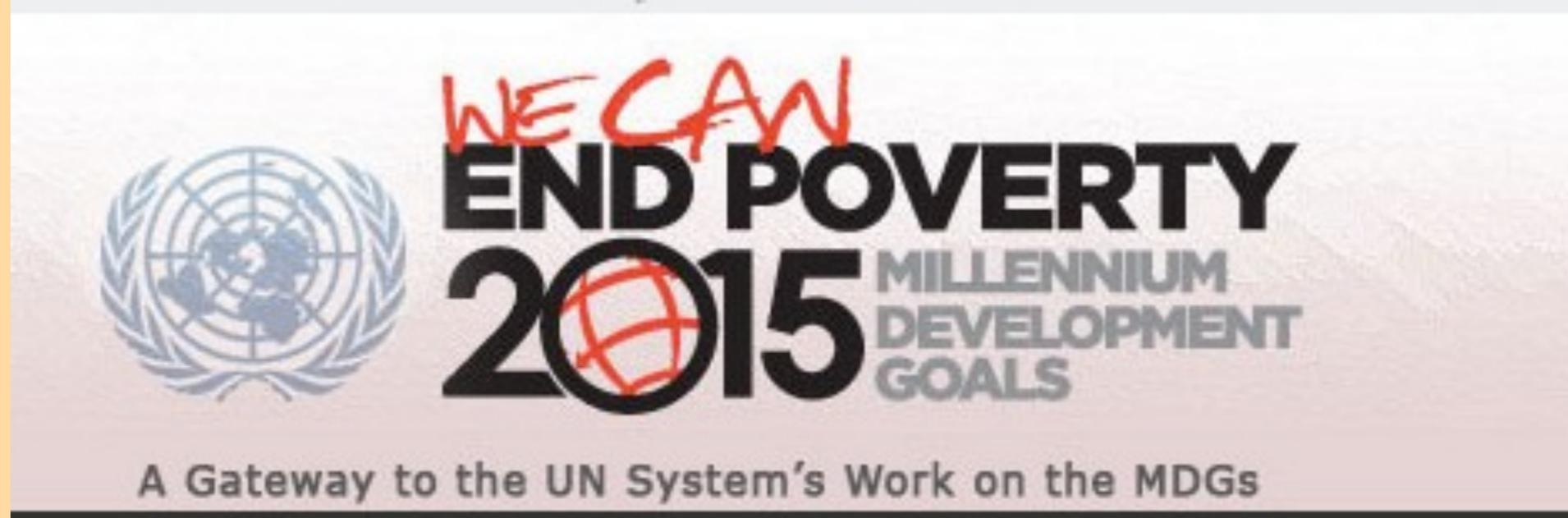
The Acts of the Apostles “To the end of the earth” Acts 1:8

“Personal Generosity; Gracious; Not Socialism”
Acts 4:32–5:16

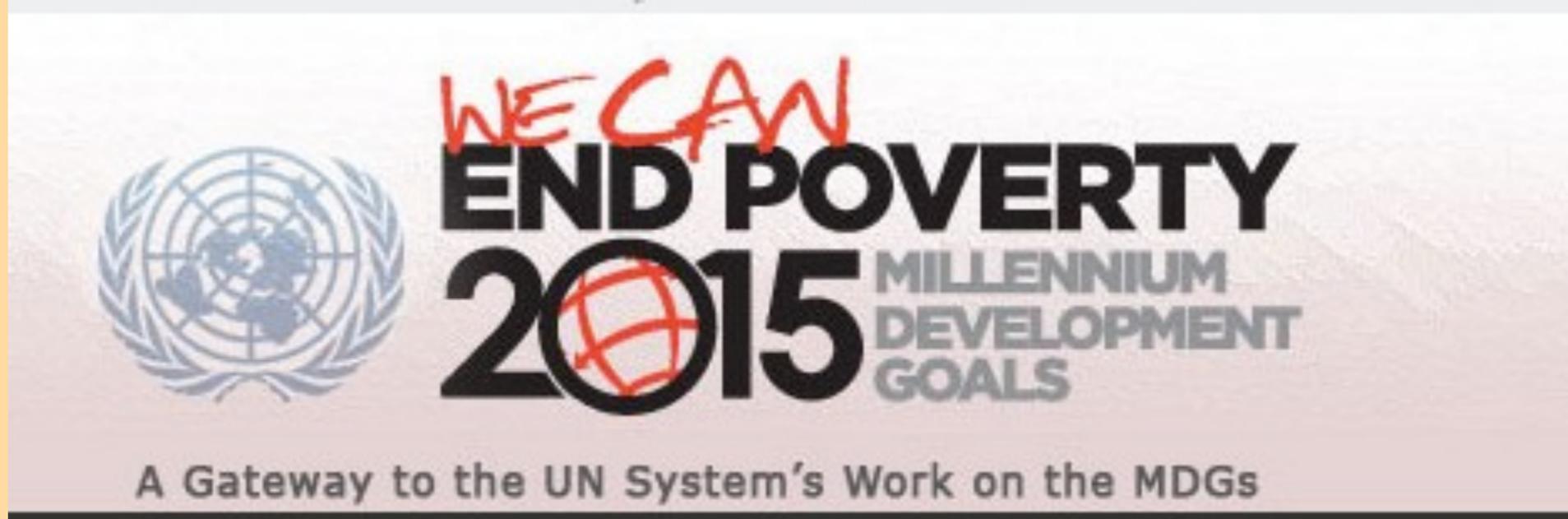


Economic Parameters





Deut. 15:11, “For the poor will never cease to be in the land; therefore I command you, saying, ‘You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.’ ”



Mark 14:7, “For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always.”

**Prov. 14:21, “He who despises his neighbor sins;
but he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.”**

“The food crisis is only the visible tip of the iceberg. More fundamental problems lurk just below the surface. Most serious is the unjust division of the earth’s food and resources. Thirty percent of the world’s population lives in the developed countries. But this minority of less than one-third eats three-quarters of the world’s protein each year. Less than 6 per cent of the world’s population lives in the United States, but we regularly demand about 33 per cent of most minerals and energy consumed every year. Americans use 191 times as much energy per person as the average Nigerian. Air conditioners alone in the United States use as much energy each year as does the entire country of China annually with its 830 million people. One-third of the world’s people have an annual per capita income of \$100 or less. In the United States it is now about \$5,600 per person. And this difference increases every year.”

~Ron Sider, *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*

Prov. 14:31, “He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.”

Prov. 17:5, “He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.”

Basic Issues in Thinking

- 1. Authority: Whence cometh truth: God, man, tradition, institution?**
- 2. View of God: Small deity, larger man; part of creation; impersonal force; personal, infinite Creator God.**
- 3. View of Man: Totally autonomous; cosmic accident; image of God; basically good; basically evil.**