

## A Tragedy: The Devoted American Christian Attitude to the Poor, the Widow, the Orphan, and the Helpless Immigrant is not Different

Studies indicate that even those with deep religious beliefs are no more concerned about assistance and development for the poor and helpless immigrants than persons with little to no religious commitment.

Many American Christians do not have God's perspective on the plight of the poor, immigrants, and vulnerable. This is completely understandable since most conservative/Bible teaching churches do not spend much time in those areas of the Bible that address God's attitude toward people and the nations that neglect or oppress the poor and vulnerable (e.g., Amos): Israel was destroyed in 586 B.C. and Judah in 587 B.C. in no small part to neglect and/or exploitation of the poor.

I have been involved in Bible churches for over three decades and have never heard one lesson that deals with the poor comprehensively. I also hold four college degrees from wonderful Bible colleges and seminaries but have never been offered one class on the poor and immigrants--though there are thousands of references to the poor/widow/orphan/immigrant in the Bible.

I refuse to believe that the failure of Christians to gain God's viewpoint on the poor/vulnerable/immigrants must inevitably continue. I believe there are millions of Christians who really do care about Jesus more than anything else in the world and would adopt in a heartbeat His attitude to the poor if they were taught what God says in His Holy Word.

I see hope in that just as there is a Teen's Bible, Woman's Devotional Bible, now there is a Poverty Bible as per pic below. It is not that I think that Bibles that are devoted to special groups are good in themselves. However, if this is one way for believers to see God's emphasis on the poor, it could be an invaluable aid. I have not read this Bible so I am not attesting to its integrity. That is not my point in this article.

In His Grace,

Pastor [Don Hargrove](#)

**Blessings and troubles**

This is also told in Matthew 5:1-12

<sup>20</sup> Jesus looked at his disciples and said:

God will bless you people  
who are poor.  
His kingdom belongs to you!

<sup>21</sup> Go, I will bless  
you hungry people.  
You will have plenty  
to eat!

God will bless you people  
who are crying.  
You will laugh!

<sup>22</sup> God will bless you when others hate you  
and won't have anything to do with you.  
God will bless you when people insult you  
and say cruel things about you, all because  
you are a follower of the Son of Man.

<sup>23</sup> Long ago your own people did these  
same things to the prophets. So when this  
happens to you, be happy and jump for joy!  
You will be rewarded at reward time.

Contemporary  
English  
Version

# the poverty and justice bible

OVER 2,000 VERSES IN THE BIBLE  
WAKE US UP TO ISSUES OF  
POVERTY AND JUSTICE  
AND NOW THERE'S NO MISSING THEM.

God's punishment of the nations  
(as identified by Amos)

