

ChalcedonReport

MINISTRY NEWS FROM THE CHALCEDON FOUNDATION® DECEMBER 2025

Socialism or Christian Reconstruction: Two Forms of Dominion

Chalcedon Editorial

As debates over socialism, statism, economics, education, and the future of American culture escalate, Christians are once again faced with a fundamental question: What vision of dominion will define the next generation?

Dominion is an inescapable concept, and to ignore it only means one will suffer under the dominion of the wicked regardless of its political form. At some point, we may run out of enough years for the last days prophecy teachers to continue putting forward the hope of a rapture, and Christians will start to realize it's either Christian Reconstruction or some version of the city of man.

In the recent episode of the Chalcedon Podcast, host Andrea Schwartz sat down with Mark Rushdoony and Martin Selbrede to explore how Christian Reconstruction provides the only enduring, moral alternative to the utopian promises of socialism. Their discussion was more than a policy critique—it shined a light on the foundational differences between two forms of dominion, and the necessary steps Christians must take to rebuild civilization from the ground up.

Once again, Chalcedon is putting forth a clarion call: Christian Reconstruction is not a theological niche. It is the antidote to the cultural and moral collapse of the modern age. It's not enough to comfortably critique socialism when what's needed are the building plans and practical steps toward godly dominion.

Socialism's Continued Appeal and Why Ignorance Is Fueling It

The discussion began with a question many Americans are now asking: Why is socialism still gaining ground in a nation that once rejected it outright? What's the appeal?

Mark Rushdoony pointed to a broad cultural amnesia, "There's a greater degree of ignorance about what socialism is. Marxism has a negative connotation... but a lot of people think of socialism as much more benign." What people don't realize, he continued, is that "there's more similarity between socialism and Marxism than there are differences."

This ignorance isn't limited to secular circles. Even Christians, Mark explained, have become susceptible to a diluted understanding of economics and history. The false allure of socialism—particularly its "democratic" varieties—rests on a widespread desire for quick fixes: "People want a quick fix and they don't want to listen to the basic historical, economic, and even moral argument against these systems."

Yet the most important distinction is not economic but moral—and theological. That's why Christian Reconstruction and socialism are not merely competing political philosophies; they represent opposite visions of what man is and how society changes.

Mark summarized the contrast simply, "Christian Reconstruction is a ground-up change... God changes individuals who then change their families, their businesses, their communities—really all of society."

Socialism, by contrast, is always top-down—seeking rapid transformation through centralized coercion. Mark continued, "Governments are run by men and have a short lifetime. Therefore they want quick results. They try to change man quickly by force and the power of other people's money."

This short-term desperation is exactly what makes socialism so destructive—and so dangerous.

Humanistic Millennialism: Doesn't Every Utopian Dream Become a Nightmare?

Martin Selbrede zoomed out to reveal the deeper theological issue, namely that every social order is built on an eschatology, and humanism is no exception.

"In order to do what God does, you need to assume God-like powers," Martin noted. "To guarantee a result in the sociocultural domain, you have to control all the variables. And that means massive coercive government."

Because fallen man cannot regenerate himself, he attempts to engineer a man-made "millennium" through force. The result is always oppressive, Martin noted: "To create this millennium... you may have to kill a lot of people."

Martin invoked historical and modern examples—from the Khmer Rouge to current authoritarian trends—to show that humanistic utopias always devolve into dystopias. Why?

Because socialism is built on shifting sand. Martin remarked, "There's only

one true refuge, one true rock. Socialism anchors itself on shifting sands and collectivist dreams that involve murder if necessary.”

Martin is reiterating Rushdoony’s view that socialistic utopias represent a false millennium requiring total control over people, property, thought, the family, and ultimately the future itself.

No matter how sophisticated the technology or how noble the rhetoric, the utopian impulse always collapses under the weight of its own moral rebellion.

The Moral Root of Socialism is Institutionalized Theft and Covetousness

Mark also recalled his father’s viewpoint that socialism, like any form of humanism, is not merely misguided—it is immoral. He said, “Socialism is institutionalized theft.”

This theft is not limited to taxation or wealth redistribution. It attacks the very structure of the dominion mandate. Mark continued, “The commandment ‘thou shalt not steal’ goes back to dominion. Man’s labor and resources were given to him by God for a productive purpose. When the state robs a man of his labor, it interferes with that dominion.”

Even more fundamentally, the entire ideology is driven by covetousness, which Scripture calls idolatry (Col. 3:5): “The theory of socialism itself represents a covetous system... desiring to acquire something by illegitimate means.”

Martin reinforced this by pointing to Judas’s false moral outrage,—“Why wasn’t this sold and given to the poor?”—as a blueprint for socialist rhetoric. Martin noted, “He didn’t say it because he cared for the poor. He said it because he was a thief.”

Thus socialism does not represent love for neighbor. Rather, it represents the moral counterfeit of one of God’s greatest commandments by virtue signaling in service of humanistic power.

Like Judas, false moral outrage is designed to mask an immoral drive to steal on behalf of the city of man and its ungodly dominion.

Why the Family Is the Last Barrier Against Statism

Throughout the conversation, both Mark and Martin emphasized one institution that stands as the chief obstacle to socialism’s advance: the family.

Andrea highlighted modern slogans like “it takes a village” as evidence of the state’s attempt to displace parental authority. Martin agreed saying, “The family is the only bulwark against socialism.”

He warned that the modern state aggressively seeks cases it can use as pretexts to regulate or dismantle family autonomy: “They want to find the families which are weak to use that as an excuse to shut down all families.”

They do this because the family is the God-ordained engine of education, welfare, inheritance, and cultural continuity—all of which socialism wants to centralize.

When Christian families fail in their responsibilities, Martin argued, judgment follows because “the culture will be shaped by that dereliction.”

On the other hand, when Christian families are faithful, he said, “That’s the worst enemy to the socialist... it shows that God’s law works. It’s contagious.”

Tithing and Dominion: The Forgotten Weapon

One of the most striking parts of the discussion involved a topic many Christians overlook which is *tithing as social financing*.

Mark explained that most Christians misunderstand tithing as a purely church-centered function. He said, “Tithing is the funding mechanism of the Kingdom of God... It means building churches, Christian schools, businesses. It means capitalizing the Kingdom.” This stands in direct contrast to the modern state, which uses taxation and inflation to expand its power.

Martin pointed out that early America’s tithing agencies—independent institutions funded by the tithe—were so effective that the state had to dismantle them in order to justify public education. He said, “They had to be shut down...

because they stood in the way of state-funded education.”

This practical system of decentralized, covenantal social funding is one of the great Christian tools for resisting statism—yet modern churches have allowed it to collapse.

The Long Game: Why Christian Reconstruction Requires Patience

Andrea raised a concern many believers share about how we measure progress in cultural transformation.

Mark answered by reminding listeners that revival begins with obedience: “You don’t accidentally obey God. But when you see increased interest in doing things God’s way, you know we’re moving in the right direction.”

Mark then noted that the most important measure is faithfulness, not immediate results. He said, “Man’s way never works. Rebellion never works. But God will not bless a rebellious people—He will bless faithfulness.”

Christian Reconstruction, therefore, is a multi-generational project, not a political shortcut. However, it’s clear that socially, culturally, politically, and spiritually, the times are more ripe than ever for the message Chalcedon brings.

The Role of Chalcedon

After 60 years of ministry, what is Chalcedon’s continuing mission? Mark summarized it clearly: “Chalcedon is a think tank dedicated to teaching Christians their responsibilities as citizens of the Kingdom of God.”

The work is not primarily political. It is fundamentally educational and transformational: “It’s a bottom-up revolution... We begin with ourselves and our families. Chalcedon’s role is largely educational, and we need the partnership of God’s people.”

Martin concluded, “Christian Reconstruction is future-oriented. Christian education is job one. Without it, we can’t talk about economics, politics, or anything else.” And so, our mission continues with your support. 🙌

Listen to Episode 61 in its entirety, as well as all previous episodes, at <https://tinyurl.com/ChalcedonPodcast>

Keeping Truth in Print to Disciple the Next Christian Generation

Publishing Update from Chalcedon/Ross House Books

Various labels and organizations published the early works of R. J. Rushdoony, but by the end of the 1970s, it was the direct support of our subscribers and supporters who enabled us to “self-publish” our own books and academic journals.

We understate how important this simple relationship has been, since much of the ministry of Chalcedon is spearheaded by the very books we publish. Whether it was by friend, family member, small group, local church, or even footnotes and bibliographys, there have been a myriad of ways that our Lord has led so many to the life-changing pages of our books.

Publishing is Ministry

That’s why *publishing is ministry*, and every dollar you graciously donate to Chalcedon serves as a primary means to discipling others toward their dominion calling. You’re helping so many to rethink their own lives and families in terms of God’s revealed will in Scripture, and that is a mission that must continue.

The other side of publishing is also keeping our books in print along with converting our entire catalog into digital versions (ebooks) for mobile devices. Even audiobooks are in demand, and a good many of our key volumes are already available in an audio format.

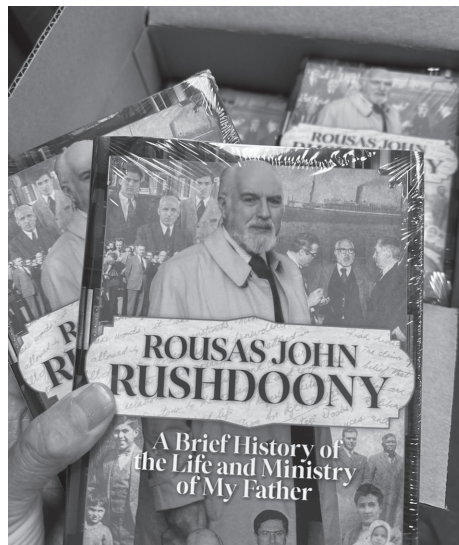
We could literally send a monthly update on what’s happening with our complete publishing mission because there is always that much in process, but we thought a short update for the end of the year might give you a glimpse into what happens routinely here at Chalcedon.

Have You Gotten Yours Yet?

Although we just mentioned reprints, the big news for 2025 was the recent release of Mark Rushdoony’s long-awaited biography of his father, *Rousas John Rushdoony: A Brief History*

of the Life and Ministry of My Father. Thanks to the generous funding by Nicene Covenant Church and Grace Community Schools in Naples, Florida, we’ve received boxes and boxes of these handsome hardback volumes.

This book is 322 pages with indices and filled with photos from throughout Rushdoony’s personal and family history. If you haven’t secured your copy yet, just visit our online store today and save 30% during our year-end sale.

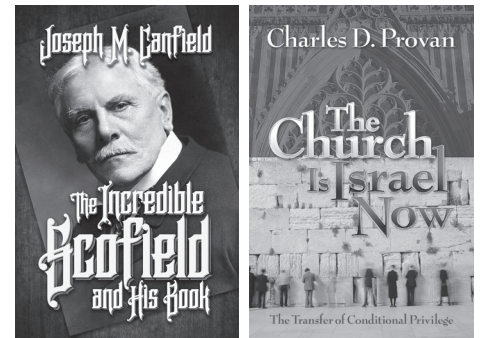


Books That Are Moving

Because it’s new, the Rushdoony biography is one of our current best-sellers, but other volumes are also popular such as Ken Gentry’s *Divorce of Israel*, *The Incredible Scofield and His Book*, *The Church is Israel Now*, *God’s Plan for Victory*, *Law & Liberty*, *Sermons in First and Second Corinthians*, and as always, all three volumes of *The Institutes of Biblical Law*.

As we’ve mentioned previously, *The Incredible Scofield and His Book* has been selling consistently for months now with no abating. In fact, we’re in desperate need of funds to do another reprint in order to stock our shelves. The reason is for the interest in this book is because people want to better understand what

gave rise to Christian Zionism, which is very much in the public discussion both on social media and in mainstream media. That would also explain the renewed interest in the other best-selling book, *The Church is Israel Now*.



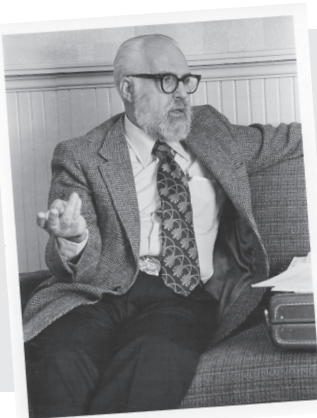
This is why reprints are important, and it’s also why publishing is a big part of Chalcedon’s ministry. For years, our books may have existed in the margins of society, but as the world changes, so the need increases for the message of Chalcedon. This will only continue, and those with eyes to see will recognize the importance of all our materials.

Let’s Keep Them in Print

There are a few other volumes in need of reprinting such as *The “Atheism” of the Early Church*, *Revolution via Education*, *The Homeschool Life*, *Glass Bridge*, and *The Mythology of Science*. What we lack are the funds to get these to the printer, and there will be more in the upcoming year. We believe it’s important to make you aware of this because most don’t view publishing as a primary means of effective ministry, but since our target audience are readers, it makes sense to keep pages in print.

Our library of available books and journals, is large so if you’d like an easier way to review what’s available, you can download a PDF version of our current catalog. It’s available on our store at ChalcedonStore.com. And please consider supporting this month with the most generous gift you can. 🙏

SAVE 30%-75% During Our Year-End Sale. Visit ChalcedonStore.com



"The world today must love hippies: it does such a good job of producing them. We are getting what we asked and paid for; if you want to complain to the management, look in the mirror."

~ R. J. Rushdoony

How to Produce a Hippie by R. J. Rushdoony

A Word In Season: Daily Messages on the Faith for All of Life, Volume 1, pp. 85-86

If you are interested in rearing up a generation of hippies and super-hippies, there are a few simple directions to follow.

First of all, abolish all teaching about God, the Bible, and God's moral law from the schools. The child will then grow up believing that these things are really not important and that religion is really a private matter and a question of taste.

"Remember, we are getting what we paid for, and if we want something else, we are going to have to pay for it, in work, sweat, and sacrifice."

Second, emphasize the individual and his rights, not the claims of God and His law. Make sure that the child has a strong and intense passion for his rights, and no concern about his moral responsibilities. Then you can be sure that he will be irresponsible and yet very demanding.

Third, make sure that the child feels entitled to the best of everything and feels cheated if he is denied instant paradise. Then the child will be sure to demand everything and riot if denied it.

Fourth, convince the child that man's real problem is not his sin but

a bad environment. Teach him that his problems are due to the evils of big business, warmongers, big labor, profiteering farmers, politicians, and the like. Never let him suspect that all men are sinners, including, and, maybe, especially himself, and that their real need is for regeneration in Jesus Christ. Then the child will grow up with a revolutionary rage at everybody instead of looking to God for regeneration.

Add all this up, and what do you have? Our public schools are an amazingly efficient and economical machine for producing hippies. Then too our indulgent homes are wonderful breeding places for hippies, and our churches are clearly in favor of the whole business.

The world today must love hippies: it does such a good job of producing them. We are getting what we asked and paid for; if you want to complain to the management, look in the mirror. If you want better management, look to God, before it is too late. Meanwhile, remember, we are getting what we paid for, and if we want something else, we are going to have to pay for it, in work, sweat, and sacrifice. 🦄

SAVE 50% on the entire 7-volume set of *Word In Season* during our year-end sale!

Ways You Can Help Chalcedon

Engage with Our Content: Read and share our articles, podcasts, and videos with friends and family. It not only enriches your understanding of Christian Reconstruction but also helps spread these ideas to a wider audience.

Host Study Groups: Organize small groups in your community to discuss the principles of Christian Reconstruction. These gatherings can serve as a powerful tool for education and outreach, creating a local support network for our cause.

Donate Financially: Your financial support is vital for us to continue our work. Regular donations help us to plan and execute projects more effectively, including publishing new materials and maintaining our online presence. Consider setting up a recurring donation to provide steady support.

Pray for Our Work and Mission: Prayer is the foundation of everything we do. Please pray for Chalcedon, its leadership, and its mission to educate and apply the message of Christian Reconstruction. Your spiritual support is invaluable.

By taking these steps, you can make a significant difference in helping us achieve our goals and spread this message. Together, we can work towards a society that reflects the faith for all of life.

SAVE 30%-75% During Our Year-End Sale. Visit ChalcedonStore.com