

## **Session #1: THE HISTORY BEHIND “LABOR DAY” & THE QUESTIONS IT RAISED**

### **I. The Origin of Labor Day.**

Key leader: \_\_\_\_\_ in 1884 organized a parade on 5 September in New York City to recognize the value of laborers.

Conditions in Europe and in the US during the Industrial Revolution  
Pullman Strike of \_\_\_\_\_.

Eugene Debs in jail read Karl Marx and later helped found the \_\_\_\_\_ Party of America.

### **II. The Emerging Questions about Labor in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.**

*What is the “just” value of labor?*

*What is a “just” view of labor’s reward—private property?*

*What is the family role regarding labor?*

*What is the role of civil government (“the State”) regarding labor and its reward?*

### **III. The Non-Biblical Answers given to the Basic Questions of Labor**

Two key thinkers: \_\_\_\_\_ (1723-90) wrote Wealth of Nations  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1818-83) wrote Das Capital

Key issue: how do we impute (credit, evaluate, measure) the \_\_\_\_\_ of labor in fixing its \_\_\_\_\_?

Marx argued that property ownership is the cause of injustice & class warfare. True value of labor could be measured (“objective” value) so it could be shown that labor never got its true price benefit due to a surplus that was skimmed off for the capitalist owner of the means of production.

Revised Marxism #1 \_\_\_\_\_ came to US in 1933 (Columbia University). Eric \_\_\_\_\_ & Herbert \_\_\_\_\_ wrote books popularizing cultural destruction based on a mixture of Marx and Freud for the 20-somethings in the 70s.

Revised Marxism #2 \_\_\_\_\_ centered in \_\_\_\_\_ emphasized subversion of Western Christianity. Led to UK Labor Party and London School of Economics.

### **IV. Conclusion**

Christian Socialists (Ron Sider, Tony Campolo, Jim Wallis) spreading the idea that it is biblical justice for the civil government to coercively re-distribute labor’s reward (property) from the “rich” to the “poor”

Questions for us: