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Wealth through Christ?

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Oral Presentation 2.3

WEALTH THROUGH CHRIST?

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We would expect religious beliefs to have an impact on an individual's life. If this is so, belief in Christ can profoundly influence a person's life, affecting how they act, what they do, and what they desire. One question that can be raised from this is does a belief in Christ affect a person's economic well-being? If so, secondly, does the denominational affiliation of an individual also have an impact? These two questions are the main focus of this project. Many theories are found as to whether being Christian would have a positive or negative impact, and whether the impact is significant or insignificant. Theories are also found as to whether religious denomination should have an impact, such as Max Weber's theory that being Protestant would have a positive impact on economic well-being due to a "Protestant ethic."

The major contribution of this project is to empirically test these theories. The data used is taken from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth. The results of the paper lend support to the theories that being Christian has a positive, significant impact on economic well-being and the hypothesis that denomination also has a significant impact.