

## Creating Value

At a banquet I attended some years ago, one of the speakers was a former football player who played safety in the NFL. At one point in his career, he was earning \$65,000 a year as a starter for his team. He recalled how his team played the Buffalo Bills during the prime of the infamous O.J. Simpson. On one play, O.J. broke loose at the line of scrimmage and made an eighty-five-yard touchdown run, breaking several tackles along the way—the last by the fellow who was giving the speech. As he came off the field afterward, his coach met him halfway, livid and redfaced, and screamed at him, “I’m paying you \$65,000 a year to make that tackle.” And the player said to the coach, “Yes, Coach, but Buffalo is paying O.J. \$800,000 a year to break that tackle.”

Debates over profits arise all the time, not just in regard to Wall Street but also regarding the sports world. Fans and non-fans alike heatedly debate the propriety of the profits that team owners receive and the large salaries that many players earn. In 1988, Orel Hershiser was the MVP of Major League Baseball’s World Series. At the end of the season, he met with the team owner, Peter O’Malley, who gave him a contract that up to that point was the richest ever given to a baseball player. Hershiser is a devout Christian, and when the media announced to the world that he had signed this multimillion-dollar contract, he received an avalanche of letters protesting against his greed, accusing him of un-Christian concern for making so much money. The bulk of these letters came from people within the Christian community.

(Excerpt from *How Should I Think About Money? (Crucial Questions)*, by R. C. Sproul, Sanford, Florida: Reformation Trust, Kindle; from Chapter 4, *The Theory of Value*, 2016, Page 27 & 28 of 72)