

Book Review: *Older Americans and the Economic Pie*, by Roy H. Ryan

Dr. Ryan has given us a thought provoking 97 page book calling on older Americans to lead in the national dialogue about entitlement programs. The core programs are Social Security, Medicare, Veterans Benefits, and Medicaid. Dr. Ryan is a social scientist and a man of God, trained in theology through the Doctorate and devoted to education. He is the author of nine books on Christian Education, and in addition to this current book, he is soon to release a book intriguingly titled, *“Hot Button Issues for Religion and Politics: The Role of Religion in a Pluralistic Society.”* He lives in a CCRC, The Treadway, in Tupelo, Mississippi.

This book, *Older Americans and the Economic Pie*, illuminates issues with our national social programs. The author explores the ethics of aging as a basis for key questions facing our generation of retirees. Among these questions are:

- “Are Older Americans Getting Too much of the Economic Pie” (p. 35)?
- What is the distinction between “earned benefits” and “entitlement benefits” (p. 49)?
- “Why do Americans have such a difficult time agreeing on how to distribute medical care” (p. 42)?
- What are “the options for places to live” “when one is approaching retirement” (p. 46)?
- How can we as a society best address end-of-life issues (p. 75)?
- What is your vision of a “good retirement” (p. 87)? and,
- “Where Do We Go from Here” (p. 88)?

Dr. Ryan’s book is recommended as a discussion guide for use by groups wishing to discuss and develop answers to the many contemporary issues of aging. If you prefer an online discussion forum, you can go to www.naccrau.com and click on “Our World” under “Topics for Learning” where you will find the Older Americans and the Economic Pie topic.