

FINANCIAL PEACE DURING TURBULENT TIMES

“Consider Your Ways”



09.02.09, Scott Luikart

I. The Times We Live In: The Age of **MATERIALISM**.

- 1) Finances are front and center in every media.
- 2) Federal and State governments, corporations and individuals are drowning in **DEBT**.
- 3) We live in the most **AFFLUENT** society in the world yet home foreclosures and personal bankruptcies are at record levels.
- 4) Finances are the leading cause of divorce in the U.S. by a 4 to 1 margin.
- 5) Today we have more **STUFF** than ever before yet it is the greatest time of depression.
- 6) According to the **IRS**, the average American pays 18% of their income to property taxes and mortgage interest and gives 1.7% to **CHARITY**.

NOTE: The god of this world's (II Cor. 4:4) plan of "Get all you can get", "Go for the gusto; you only go around once" and "He who dies with the most toys: wins" is alive and well among Christians and non-Christians.

II. Course Objectives

- 1) To **APPLY** God's financial plan for our lives and to have the mind of Christ (I Cor2:16) in making financial decisions.
- 2) To know God more intimately and be able to **SERVE** Him with our time, talents and money. (Matt. 6:24)
- 3) To be **MOBILIZED** to execute the mission we've been called to do. (Matt. 28:19-20)

“16 out of 38 parables deal with money; more is said in the New Testament about money than heaven and hell combined; five times more is said about money than prayer; and while there are 500 plus verses on both prayer and faith, there are over 2,000 verses dealing with money and possessions. Obviously, the Bible has much to say about money management” **John MacArthur**

III.A Picture of Today for us to Consider: Haggai 1:1–2:9

- 1) God faithfully provided the resources but they were **MISUSED** (vs. 1-4; Php. 4:19).
- 2) Time for a **HEART** check-up (vs. 5, 7).
- 3) Results of a consumptive **LIFESTYLE** (vs. 6, 9).
- 4) Time for an **ACTION** plan (vs. 8).
- 5) God creates an economic **RECESSION** to get our attention (vs. 10-11).
- 6) Hard times result in **OBEYING** and fearing God (vs. 12).
- 7) Mission is accomplished **WITH** God (vs. 13, 2:4).
- 8) When we use resources for God’s purpose, He is **GLORIFIED** and we can have **PEACE** (2:5-9).

SUMMARY: Using God provided resources for God’s purposes results in Him being glorified and His children having peace. On the contrary, using them for our personal lifestyle results in economic and spiritual drought.

OBJECT LESSON: Pouring money into a bag full of **HOLES**.

Action plan:

- 1) Memory Verse: Matt. 6:24
- 2) Begin to track income and spending using the forms provided.
- 3) Pick-up a workbook in the bookstore. Read pages 4-12 and complete forms #1 and #8.