

# HOW BAD IS IT...REALLY?

*By Phil Arms - April 2009*

Mark Twain once said, "When I was brought up we never talked about money because there never was enough of it to furnish a topic of conversation." A lot of us can relate to his statement.

However, today it is almost impossible to escape the doom and gloom dialogue about money and our economy. Wherever one turns, be it television, the newspapers, radio or the internet, everyone is lamenting over the horrendous condition of the national and global economies.

## HOW BAD?

No one has to be an economist to understand the data or to read the indicators that gauge the condition of our economic health. The numbers tell the story and the answer to the question, "How bad is it?" is "You ain't seen nothing' yet."

We can debate the causes and effects, point fingers of blame and find political scapegoats everywhere. But when we get right down to it, the problem is not simple economics. It is spiritual. Our nation, the public and the government have broken so many Biblical financial principles for so long that the underpinnings of our entire economic system are simply collapsing.

In Proverbs 11:1 it says, "A false balance is an abomination to the Lord but a just weight is His delight." For over one hundred years the money handlers, corrupt bankers and greedy politicians have used business practices that rely on false data, speculative hopes and enormous debt to offset the building consequences of their devious juggling of the books. In short, the chickens have come home to roost and as the economic ship begins to sink the government, Wall Street, and the bankers cannot bail out the water fast enough to stop the incoming flood and keep the boat afloat.

The efforts of the new President and our leftist-controlled Congress and their three trillion dollar bailout will prove to be the proverbial pouring of gasoline on an already raging inferno. After decades of warning and alarm bells going off, finally the system is being brought to a screeching halt.

However, before you decide to jump from a tall building or find a more creative way to do yourself in, I want to remind you, Christians who obey the financial principals in the Word of God are not tied to the economic Titanic that sinks in front of our eyes..

We have a far superior values system than that of the world. God's way with money and His people insures our confidence in Him as our provider and Source. We should understand that God is sovereign and it is He who is in absolute control.

## It Is Written

Everything we are now witnessing was prophesied by the Scriptures. I, along with numerous other preachers of God's Word have repeatedly warned, pled and begged Christians to realize that a very difficult period of economic chaos was imminent.

However, since we are long past the point where to say "I told you so" has any redemptive value, I urge you to remember some fundamental Truths that will place you under God's

protective plan.

First, as Christians, we cannot create an artificial division between the sacred and the profane in our finances. Some say "10% belongs to God and the other 90% to me." However, God demands control over every dime and possession we have now or in the future. Lordship means to acknowledge that and to release control of it to God. God calls us to live our lives from heaven's perspective.

Matthew 16:26 tells us that those who sacrifice for Him in this life shall "receive a hundred fold now in this time and in the age to come, eternal life." True freedom comes when we discover Luke 12:15 as real in our lives. "One's life does not consist in the abundance of things he possesses." What true liberty it is to discover in retaining nothing for self, that I have all!

### **But My Needs**

The fundamental fact that every Christian must come to is, "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory." (Philippians 1:19) Within the Word of God is a complete set of practical financial principals that are to guide all our financial dealings during these last day's economic convulsions.

As we await the rapture at any moment, we also understand that the Lord may tarry for a time and that we may have to live through some very difficult days. It's most urgent we understand that our Provider, our Source is not our job or business. God uses such as a pipeline. We must see God as our Source and trust His unchanging promise to meet our needs. (not our greed)

King David wrote Psalm 37:25 saying, "I have been young and now I am old yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or His seed begging bread."

### **The Law of Giving and Receiving**

I assure you, if we hold our money or possessions too tightly, we will lose them. Conversely, God promises in Luke 6:38, "Give and it shall be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be put into your bosom (pocket). For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Bottom line: If we use teaspoons to measure out our giving, we receive back by the teaspoon. If we use giant semi's to measure how much we give to God, we receive back by the semi load but multiplied over and over again. The only way to insure your financial well-being in the days ahead and to have your needs met by a generous, all-loving God is to keep your hearts and wallets open to the direction of the Spirit of God. Obeying that "still small voice" alone guarantees you will never have a need that God will not meet.

### **This, Too, Will Pass**

Again, I remind you that God's Word teaches we live in perilous times and that we are going through a worldwide paradigm shift where prophetic truths are now happening all around us. The absolute and total collapse of our national and international economics must come to pass in order for the false Messiah, the coming Antichrist, to step forth with seemingly supernatural solutions for these problems. It will not be long until all will realize there is nothing they can do to forestall such a collapse that many people begin to starve, riot and act in unbelievable ways. People in America and around the world will be desperate for someone to step forward with answers. And someone will.

My new book, "The Man Who Would Be God" was started long before the current economic collapse but it reads like a prophetic statement of old. To understand what is happening, what is coming and to discover the only way to put the protective, providing hand of God around you and your family, I urge you to get a copy of the book

**Still Better, Go To His Word!**

And, no, I do not believe we will be here when the Antichrist comes to power. But between now and the Rapture, I feel comfortable in saying God's people better repent, re-establish their priorities and get ready for one of the wildest, most unimaginable turbulent periods in history.

Just keep it simple. Rest in Christ and the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 37:1-5 which says, "Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against workers of iniquity, for they shall soon be cut down like the grass and wither like the green herb. Trust in the Lord and do good, so shalt thou dwell in the land and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him and He shall bring it to pass.