

## Exploding The Doomsday Money Myths – (1 of 5)

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The prophets of doom have always spoken - and Americans have listened -

It seems we are always obsessed with gloomy forecasts about the future.

**George Orwell's** - *1984*,

**Don Meadow's** - *Limits to Growth*,

**Larry Burkett's** - *Coming Economic Earthquake*,

**Paul Ehrlich's** - *The Population Bomb*,

and **Harry Figgie Jr.'s** - *Bankruptcy 1995* - are examples of myths

The writings of these doom and gloom authors have several characteristics in common.

1. They say they aren't predicting anything.
2. They make predictions in spite of what they say.
3. They set dates.
4. They theorize using a sequence of possible events leading to the prediction.
5. They present themselves as experts in the field in question.
6. They tend to distort facts and confuse numbers to support their case.
7. They make attempts to analyze the economy.
8. They create a reactionary environment, often to their follower's detriment.

And there are problems - serious problems with our economy.

We do have a staggering debt – As of August 2010

13 trillion debt (13,000,000,000,000+)

1 million of \$100 dollar bills - 43 inch stack

1 billion of \$100 dollar bills - 3,583 feet high

1 trillion of \$100 dollar bills – 678.66 miles high

Our tax load is an increasing burden.

1960 - worked 36 days to pay off taxes

In 2010 we work 99 days just to pay our combined taxes. (Over 1/4<sup>th</sup> of our year)

Every time we give the government \$1.00 they spend \$1.60.

But, there have always been problems.

But, there have always been the doomsday writers who for centuries have argued that we are about to run out of trees, oil, coal, minerals, fertile soil, etc.

In sixteenth-century England fears were flamed about the impending wood shortage and the lives that

would be lost because people had no wood to warm their homes.

In the 1850's dire predictions that the world was running out of whales and hence whale oil, the primary source of artificial lighting.

In 1914 the Bureau of Mines estimated that only six million barrels of oil remained in the U.S.

In 1926 the Federal Oil Conservation Board told us we had only a 7 year supply of oil.

But then we discovered more. Two decades later, the Secretary of the Interior forecast a five year supply of oil remaining. But rising prices kept leading to finding more oil.

That is not to say the problems are not real - but it is to say that problems are not new.

**Heb. 12:27 - 29 -**

**"The words once more indicate the removing of what can be shaken - that is, created things - so that what can not be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."**

But you say, "Why are you dealing with this subject?"

What business is it of the Pastor's to deal with financial problems?

***Why so much emphasis on material things?***

## **1. WE MUST DO SO TO BE TRUE TO THE WORD OF GOD**

To be sure, Jesus appeared utterly indifferent to money for his own use.

There is no mention of what he earned as a carpenter, or what he received as a teacher, or what he spent as a traveler.

Once in warning enthusiastic admirers from rashly joining his company, he reminded them that he was poorer than the foxes with their holes and the birds with their nests, for he had no where to lay his head.

**MATT. 8:20 -**

"And Jesus saith unto him, the foxes have holes and the birds have nests; but the son of man hath no where to lay his head."

But while Jesus seemed free from all personal concern about money, there is scarcely any subject to which he made more frequent references.

Being a realist, he recognized how the considerations of wealth and woven into the warp of every day life.

## 20 out of 30 parables -

Jesus had more to say about this subject than any other subject including - Heaven, new birth, hell, prayer, salvation, second coming, baptism, church

### **MATT. 6:19 - 24**

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and money!"

### **MARK 10:23**

"Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God. The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

### **LUKE 12:15**

"And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life, consisteth not in the abundance of things he possesses."

### **MARK 4:19**

"And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful."

## **2. TO BE TRUE TO THE CHRISTIAN HOME**

It has been observed that problems relating to money are the most difficult problems in the marriage relationship.

It is estimated that a minimum of one marriage in every 5 is in serious trouble because of money problems.

**LOUIS EVANS** in his book -

*"Your Marriage, Duel or Duet"* has a chapter entitled, "Finance ... A Fury or a Fellowship?"

In that chapter is this paragraph involving the problem of money in marriage:

"There it is ... the bombing of bills and the fury of finance. The monetary maelstrom can wreck a home if we are not careful.

Peace will only come with a well thought out program of finance. Over many a broken home could be found this sign: **Until Debt Do Us Part."**

### **3. TO BE TRUE TO THE INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN**

So many people are in bondage - and many of doing foolish things in reaction to the doomsday prophets.

The American home is under attack and many families are out of financial control.

**Sherman Smith** once wrote- *22 ways to know you are in financial trouble.*

1. You don't know how much debt you have and are afraid to add it up.
2. You pay the minimum payment on your credit cards each month.
3. You pay off credit card payments with other credit cards.
4. You write postdated checks on a regular basis.
5. You spend money in advance of payday and must hurry to the bank on payday to cover the checks you have written.
6. You pay only the interest on bank loans.
7. You cannot live three to six months without regular weekly or monthly income.
8. Your mortgage payment or rent is more than 45% of your take home pay each month.
9. You are one or more months behind in paying one or more bills.
10. You cancel auto insurance on one or more cars.
11. You cancel your health insurance.
12. You have had something repossessed.
13. You are considering filing for bankruptcy.
14. You are paying your bills with money normally given as tithes and offerings.
15. If liabilities exceed assets, no net worth.
16. Both mates not aware of financial picture, hiding bills and misrepresenting financial situation to spouse.
17. Looking for a quick fix, get rich scheme, a 'miracle', a solid financial picture does not happen overnight, accumulated over a long period by applying Biblical principles.
18. Emotional depression, directly attributable to financial situation.
19. Being so strapped you are not able to give to needs God lays on your heart.
20. Being turned down for credit application or for a loan.
21. Taking out home equity loans to pay bills and buy new items.
22. Frequent family arguments about money.

I firmly believe that God wants us to live a victorious life.

**Mal. 3** makes it evident - that includes material blessings as well as spiritual blessings.

That does not mean the prosperity gospel, where all of God's children drive Rolls Royces and wear Rolexes...

The Bible does not say that God will supply all of our greeds, but it does say He shall supply all of our needs.

Let us begin by saying, there is no victory without the absolute lordship of Jesus Christ.

Between our will and His will there must not be a battle but a blending.

3 Principles...

### **1. The Divine Obligation**

#### **Matt. 7:21-22 -**

"Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say tome on that day, Lord, Lord did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?"

#### **Rom. 10:9, 10 -**

"That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

To be under the lordship of Christ means ...

1. We will work like a Christian  
What we have must be acquired honestly.
2. We will give like a Christian  
What we have must be shared generously.
3. We will spend like a Christian  
What we have must be managed effectively.
4. We must save like a Christian  
What we have must be accumulated carefully.
5. We must leave what we have like a Christian.  
That is administered wisely.

His will, our will and our will, His will.

### **2. The Demonic Opposition**

The world's most popular subject 6 days a week is the subject of money.

But in some churches, the world's most unpopular subject on Sunday is the subject of money. The great black preacher stood and said, "We need to walk. Amen. We need to walk."

"We need to run. Amen. We need to run."

"We need to fly. Amen. We need to fly."

"It takes money to fly. Let's walk."

### **A. W. Toser ...**

*"There is no doubt that the possessive clinging to thing is one of the most harmful habits in life because it is so natural, it is rarely recognized for the evil that it is. But its outworking are tragic. This ancient curse will not go out painlessly. The touch old miser within us will not lie down and die obedient to our command. He must be torn out, torn out of our hearts like a plant from the soil, he must be extracted in blood and agony like a tooth from the jaw. He must be expelled from our souls in violence as Christ expelled the money changers from the temple."*

### **3. The Dynamic Opportunity**

There will be 4 surprises when you submit your finances to the lordship of Christ.

1. Surprised at how trite your old excuses sound when you hear others use them.
2. You will be surprised at the joy of complete obedience.
3. You will be surprised at the way God will meet your every need.
4. You will be surprised at the blessings He will shower on you beyond your needs.

### **Luke 6:28 -**

"Give and it will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be measured back."