

Christianity in an Uncertain Economy

By Kimberly Sowell

Our nation is currently experiencing what is a strange phenomenon to many of us – economic uncertainty. Offices and manufacturing plants are filled with people keeping one ear to the ground, listening for any whispers of the word “layoff” or “downsizing.” The busy chatter between friends about upcoming vacations or plans for a night on the town is now replaced with hushed tones of worry and concern about paying monthly bills.

Economic woes can be a wonderful spiritual blessing to this nation, if we will soften our hearts toward the Lord. God spoke through Moses to the people, *“When your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; when your heart is lifted up, and **you forget** the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage...”* (Deut. 8:13-14 NKJV, my emphasis). With wealth comes a deception that we don’t need God. When the wealth is taken away, we face the reality that we aren’t powerful enough to be the masters of our lives; we are completely dependent on God. Could it be that the economic recession will create the spiritual climate our nation needs to prepare our hearts for a great revival?

Christians are not immune to layoffs and plunging stock market trends. However, our response to the economic trends must be distinctly different from that of the world. What are the flesh responses that we must resist?

Dwelling on finances.

Paul taught, *Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth* (Col. 3:2 NKJV). Because you belong to God and you know He is trustworthy to meet your needs, you don’t have to obsess on your job situation or your savings. Do you find yourself thinking about the economy several times a week? Are you quicker to pick up a newspaper with a headline about the job market, or to pick up the Word of God? When you’re faced with a ministry opportunity, is your first hesitation because of the money you’ll have to spend? Paul also taught, *the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace* (Rom. 8:6 NKJV). Your peaceful heart will be a great testimony to God’s faithfulness, opening doors for you to share Christ with the people around you who are fretting over finances.

Hoarding money.

Hoarding is a fearful reaction to uncertainty. As believers, we recognize that our security is based not on the stability of the stock market or on job trends, but on the faithfulness of God. Our Heavenly Father has complete authority over every penny on the face of the earth, from the high security vaults to the preschooler’s piggybank. All that you own – whether in good times or bad – has been given to you to use for the glory of God and the advancement of the kingdom. Your source of funds is God, and His reserve will never run dry. The parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-30) and also Christ’s teaching, *“Do not lay up for yourself treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal”* (Matt. 6:19 NKJV) are specific instructions to us against hoarding.

When God nudges you to give, give cheerfully and without hesitation. Ask God to give you opportunities to give more now than you ever have in the past. Seek a deeper appreciation for the pleasure of being a child of God, not a partaker of the world’s goods. Bombard heaven with requests that the people of our nation will realize their need for a Savior and give their lives to Jesus Christ. To God be the glory! He is Lord, and that is certain.