CORE VALUES Why What We Believe Defines Who We Are

God's Plan of Economy

Deuteronomy 28:1-14 & 30:1-16

Introduction: Today we continue the study of *God's Economy*. There are many different notions of what the Bible teaches concerning wealth, material possessions, and responsible stewardship (which has become essentially synonymous with giving). These differing views, and the various ideas about giving and tithing result primarily from "proof texting" Scripture, or eisegesis (reading into the text what the interpreter wants it to say). In this study I propose that we consider a more global approach to what the Bible teaches in the broad context of its history and culture. If there is a global proof text that sums the Biblical teaching it may be expressed in this proverb:

⁸ Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: ⁹ Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain. (Pro 30:8-9 KJV)

I. God's Promises to His People as They Enter Canaan (Deut. 28-30)

- A. God's desire is to bless His people and to give them all they need
- B. It includes all the provisions for rest and relationship we have considered
- C. It is a contingent blessing based upon
 - 1. Loving God with all the heart
 - 2. Obeying His commandments

II. Misconceptions About Old Testament Promises of Physical/Material Blessing

- A. We tend to read into these passages our contemporary Western conception of wealth
- B. God gave His promises to a nation that had, principally, an agrarian economy—they were predominantly farmers and shepherds
- C. If, as a nation, they loved and obeyed God, they would experience:
 - 1. relatively good health
 - 2. relative prosperity in harvests and livestock
 - 3. strong families
 - 4. secure lands, farms, and homes
- D. There was the recognition that individuals might suffer various kinds of loss, and as a righteous nation they were to have compassion on them:
 - 1. do not lend money to your neighbors at interest or take a pledge
 - 2. do not take their land or force them into slavery
 - 3. return the land and possessions to the family every 50 years

III. New Testament Principles of Blessing and Wealth Are Quite Similar

- A. Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:19-34)
- B. Practicing these principles includes the following elements:
 - I. Rest and freedom from anxiety—not the pursuit of riches
 - 2. Loving and trusting God entirely and completely
 - 3. Obey the voice of the Holy Spirit in all things
 - 4. Which includes seeking God's permission & blessing in every purchase—Is He Lord of all?? We are managers, NOT owners

KEY VERSES

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; ¹⁶ in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it. (Deuteronomy 30:15-16 NAS)

<u>Alliance Bible Church</u> <u>Core Values</u>

- Celebrating the Lordship of Jesus Christ through corporate worship in two languages.
- Boldly proclaiming the fullness of His Gospel: Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King.
- Building up one another in love through small group community, prayer, and discipleship.
- Serving our community through meaningful acts of loving service.

GOD'S PLAN OF ECONOMY

- 1.) What are your financial goals? Are they in harmony with God's purposes for your life?
- 2.) Do you seek God's guidance and direction, even His permission, before making any significant purchase?
- 3.) If you are living beyond your means and find yourself in debt, how does this affect your spirit and your joy?
- 4.) Have you recently asked God to review your checkbook and budget with you to see what He thinks?
- 5.) Do you have a philosophy, a conscious worldview, that guides your use of money?
- 6.) Are you living in financial freedom so that you are able to spend time with God and family/friends?
- 7.) What do you think are reasonable expectations to have in our present economy and culture regarding material blessings and provisions? Based on this study, do you think they line up with Scripture?
- 8.) If you are unable to pay your bills and "make ends meet," can you say from your heart that you have sought the Lord in everything you have spent money on in the last years and asked His counsel and permission? Have you put Him first in everything and obeyed the voice of the Holy Spirit in your choices?

The C&MA Vision The Christian and Missionary Alliance will be	NOTES
a movement of Great Commission Christians who are glorifying God by building Christ's Church worldwide.	
The C&MA Mission	
Our mission is to know Jesus Christ; exalt Him as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King; and complete His Great Commission.	
 Evangelizing and discipling persons throughout the United States, and 	
 Incorporating them into Christ-centered, community-focused congregations, 	
 Mobilizing them for active involvement in a missionary effort designed to plant Great Commission churches among unreached and responsive peoples worldwide. 	

Paul R. Martin Senior Pastor Alliance Bible Church of McHenry, IL

