



Liberty Matters

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This is a **Season of Blessing**, of reaping what has been sown. This month my mother has gone to glory, in the fullness of time. Motherhood was her career, and she is remembered for her love, her kindness and her gentleness. In the last six months we have been blessed with three new grandchildren. They delight us and give us lots of happiness.

Likewise in Liberty Trust the present season is one of blessing and many have been released from the bondage of debt. We receive new enquiries daily and are preparing new promotional brochures.

We love hearing from you and receiving your testimonies and favorite scriptures. Keep it up!

God Bless you all

Kathleen Deal



TRUSTEES

Kelvin Deal
Chartered Accountant

Kevin Wilson
Environmental Manager

Elaine Bateson
Company Director

Jonathan Segedin
Master Builder

Colleen Medwin
Teacher

Mark Langridge
I.T. Manager

Treasurer:
Martin Tyrrell
Chartered Accountant

Loan Officer:
John Anderson

Budget Advisor:
Robert Cleland
Dairy Farmer

Administration:
Kathleen Deal

The Blessing of the Lord
brings riches and He sends
no sorrow with them.

Proverbs 10 v 22



I rejoice when I get the newsletters and see the saints getting out of debt, and being able to purchase a home or church building. Your faithfulness in seeking the Lord and His way of freeing His sons and daughters from years and years of debt is very much appreciated. I grew up under the bondage of mortgages and financial strain with high interest rates but praise God my God shall supply all my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Linda Tresidder
Flaxmere, Hastings

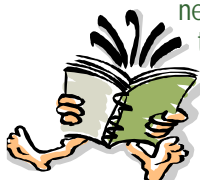
Book Review

The Four Laws of Debt Free Prosperity

By Harris & Coonradt

Through an entertaining and captivating story, this book presents the four time-tested laws to guide you to become debt free and financially secure.

Based on a true story, Paul discovers that how much a person earns isn't nearly as important in achieving financial security as most people think—that nearly anyone on any income can achieve debt-free prosperity by apply the four laws in this story.



Recommended by Sylvia Bowden, Rotorua

Sometimes it
takes a painful
experience to
make us change
our ways.
Prov 20 v 30 GNB

MONEY ISSUES



(Continued from previous issue.)

St. Augustine wrote in his commentary on Psalms 72 that covetousness is a sin that tempted the poor no less than the rich: "It is not a matter of income, but of desire. Look at the rich man standing beside you, perhaps he has a lot of money on him but no greed in him, while you who have no money are filled with greed".

In the Protestant era the ideal was the clean simple comforts of the middle class. The careful stewardship of possession was seen as a very serious God-given responsibility. The greater the possessions, the greater the responsibility to use them for the glory of God, and by increasing them by restless effort. Martin Luther saw three conversions necessary for the believer, conversion of the heart, of the mind, and of the wallet.

John Wesley urged believers to practice business to the glory of God: "Make as much as you can, save as much as you can, and give as much as you can".

The Puritans pursued an ethic of industry, moderation, and simple living. Ironically this ethic produced great wealth. They were keenly aware that riches could turn

one from God, saying that, "Religion begat prosperity, and the daughter devoured the mother".

Ambrose, who was Bishop of Milan and lived 340 to 397 taught " Possession ought to belong to the possessor, not the possessor to the possession. Whosoever therefore does not use his patrimony as a possession, who does not know how to give and distribute to the poor, he is the servant of his wealth, not its master. The man belongs to his riches, not the riches to the man!"

Apparently a balanced and well-integrated perspective on finances was seen, not as an impossible ideal, but as realistic and practical, though not likely to be achieved without a struggle. While the pursuit of wealth as an end in itself was reprehensible, wealth as a fruit of labour in a calling was a sign of God's blessing.

So we see that money is a blessing from God, but the love of money is sinful. In personal attitudes towards wealth these two ideas are harmonised in the biblical concept of stewardship. Stewardship welcomes money as God's gift, but remembers that our property is ultimately God's. We are entrusted with it for a time, and we will be held accountable for our use of it.

Ralph Winter is the head of the U.S. Centre for World Mission. To achieve our God-given goals, he says, we need to make personal economic sacrifices, to develop a "war-time mentality". He says if his fellow Presbyterians in the U.S. were to live at the standard of living of the average Presbyterian minister, it would free up \$2 billion dollars for missions work, three times the amount currently given for missions by U.S. Christians. Americans he says, give no more to missions that they spend on chewing gum (\$700 million per year). When we say we support missions, he asks, how serious are we?

Stewardship is a key concept. Money is not bad, it is a tool that can be used for incredible good, if it is not misused. Jesus told parables praising the enterprise of the stewards who invested their trust funds and doubled the amount. Can we use our money to make more money, and thus increase our potential to accomplish good things with it?

Thought: How does money motivate you? How much do you think about money? How important is money to you?



It is better to be satisfied with what you have than to be always wanting something else. This is like chasing the wind.
Ecclesiastes 6 v 9

Thoughts from Nehemiah

We have a tendency to pray, or to act.
We need to cultivate the ability to respond in both ways.
Action without prayer leaves us vulnerable to attacks of the enemy.
Prayer without action is escapism.
Ultimately, the division is an artificial one.

To act is to pray, and to pray is to act.
They form a joint response to the needs, problems and dangers of the world.
Prayer gives us the right perspective on things;
action ensures that the work goes forward.

Thank God for the privilege of working with Him.
Lay before Him any work which you are undertaking at the moment, looking for His help and encouragement.

Gleaned from SU "Encounter with God" for 1 August 2000