

Today's Message: "Don't Waste the Recession"

Part One

Message Study Guide

Introduction

Several weeks ago, on his weekly radio address, the President of Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama, began his address by saying, "I just wanted to announce today that, like it or not, Auburn University will be participating in the current recession". As individuals, like it or not, all of us will be participating in the current recession of 2009. While recessions have always been a part of the American fabric since its founding in 1776, this current recession seems to be impacting the entire globe, not just America. There is not a nation on the face of the earth that has been immune from its effects.

It is impossible not to be saddened when we hear of stories about hard working individuals all across America who have lost their jobs and most of what they have worked for all of their lives. It was there one minute and gone the next. Many, who retired earlier, have been forced to go back to work to keep body and soul together. Others who were planning to retire within the next few years have now postponed that indefinitely.

As Christians, we must ask a different set of questions than what others are asking. We should be asking, does God's Word have anything to say about recession" and "what is God saying to us through the recession. By being a sovereign God, He has the right to either send a recession or to allow a recession. Which ever position you take is immaterial. The bigger issue is that He has a purpose behind everything He does and everything He allows. The question is what is that purpose?

Discussion Points

God never misses an opportunity to send clear, precise, and specific messages to us. He never wastes anything. He will not waste this recession. It is up to us to be sensitive to what God is saying to us.

Discussion Questions

1. Which makes more sense to you; God sending a recession or God allowing a recession? Why?
2. Would it be best to give God our undivided attention or for Him to have to get our attention? Has He ever had to get your attention? Have you ever voluntarily given Him your attention?
3. Why do you think that Americans seem to think and act like they are somehow immune from the displeasure or judgment of God?
4. How comforting is it to know that God is working all things after the counsel of His own will in the midst of these difficult times? How does that affect you practically?

Think About It

According to Scripture, God has chosen money to test the genuineness of our confession that God is the King, Lord, and Savior of our lives. Money seems to be the one subject that will get our attention faster than anything else.

Do Something About It!

As Christians, one of the biggest challenges for us is to display to others that God Himself is the absolute satisfaction of our lives; not money. While we are to use money as a means to exist in God's world and to help the poor and needy and to spread the gospel to the world, money is not our goal. God is!

Be Willing To Change

" ... my counsel shall stand and I will do all My pleasure". (Isaiah 46:10)

NOTES:
