

The Power of Readiness, Part 8
Getting Ready for G.E.D.
Slide Notations

"Be careful that you aren't weighted down w/overindulgences, dulled by intoxicants and distracted by the cares of this existence so that the day of the Lord comes on you unaware. Like a snare will it be for those who dwell on the earth... *....but you watch and pray that you are counted worthy to escape the things that will come to pass and to stand before the Son of God.*" **Luke 21.34-36**

"Of the times and seasons I don't have to instruct you for you know perfectly well that the day will come like a thief in the night. When they begin saying, "Peace and safety" then sudden destruction will come upon them... like a woman who begins to travail in delivery, so will it begin and not end until the coming... *but you should not be in darkness so that it overtakes you.*" **1Thess 5.1-4**

"it will be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a time of nations up to that moment... *and at that time your people will be delivered, every one that will be found written in the book.*"
Daniel 12.1

The purpose of our time together is not to get directions, but to become "directable" and then directed... Not to be prepped for an event but to be prepared for life... Not to feel good about ourselves but to become use-full to God...

Recap: With the words of God in us, we can walk thru this life, hand in hand with Him, having power to conquer life/death issues... Knowing the reality of the dual kingdoms we will have Christ-following success against all temptations and societal shifts!

Recap: *Sexual temptation* is a very real issue for every believer to deal with during these darkening times! We must have scripture to form our guard rails, or safety net, to keep us from falling! Regardless of the approach/temptations. Many who haven't fallen are just people who haven't been tested!

Recap: *Religious shifts!* Buddhist and New Age philosophy has infiltrated the *church culture...* *No Feng shui zone! No Chi! No spin!* Believers need scripture to form up guard rails and safety nets to keep us from falling into confusion/deception. People w/o deep convictions/real experience are easily dissuaded from pure faith as easily as, *"it sounds good"*

Getting Ready for G.E.D.

Nothing troubles Americans, Christians, quite like: "Money, money, money, money... MONEY!" And if there's going to be troublesome last days money will be part of it!

No secret, America is not in the end times scenario... *As long as America "is" it's not the end times! May be closer to "is not" than we know!...* But the most powerful country in the world will not be conquered or subdued militarily... *Our undoing will be our Roman/Corinthian lifestyles/economy!*

Our national love of money, "causes us to fall into many unintelligent and hurtful longings... Desires that drown us in destruction and ruin... which chasing after cause us to stray from our faith... That's what will cause is to be penetrated through and through... to our sorrow and grief!" **1Tim 6**

The Great Economic Descent!

Today going for a G.E.D. in a not so popular topic... Reality is, America is up for lifestyle changes, beginning w/economic base... And believers need to have the power of readiness on their side! *"Forewarned is forearmed!"*

While Americans worry about \$4 gas... people in other parts of the world would pay *anything* for a glass of water! While we struggle w/ARM's crises, people are living in the streets/boxes We cherish our financial supremacy, but outsource our jobs/technology, Now standing in line for fuel/food

#1 consumer being eclipsed by Baby C! 5x our population owning as much oil as we do – 2%... *And not enough food!* Aggressively shopping the world markets food/fuel – willing to pay more/*even more*

Hirsch Report: "If we discovered as much oil as we have on the planet today, the power of compound growth (Chindia) would deplete reserves by 2016!"

"Nation on wheels" no longer in control of world's oil supply. Richest oil fields, Middle East. USA uses 25% world prod/2% reserves! 78% of world's oil supply owned by Arab countries/22% capitalized companies! Goldman Sachs estimates oil @ \$158 barrel by year-end

Fossil fuel cheapest liquid on planet! Coffee: \$15g Evian: \$5g/ 20¢/1 mile/4 friends!

Prius Hybrid: convert today/5 yr benefit

Aptera/Electric 3-wheel/Nov/\$30k Great! Until we start getting power bills

Honda's FCX Clarity hydrogen car/Tech/infrastructure 10-20 yrs to perfect/now 3-5g fossil fuel:1g energy

Biofuels! All the corn production in America for ethanol would supply 2.4% of our daily demand/fuel!

Same amount that a tune up and air in tires would give us! Efforts to relieve crisis/doubling food\$\$ How much world hunger/ready for?

Nuclear: U235 gone by 2030/waste?

Wind/Solar: plentiful/impractical

There is no doubt we have the ingenuity and creativity to overcome the issues... but the same great minds are still attached to the same crooked hearts that have held us back! Unless we really change... we are all going to have to make changes in the way we live!

Indicators of coming changes!

Social Security officially inverted/Medicare officially broken/Bear Sterns bailout ½ American reserve/Americans now know about debt room (½ American debt owned by oil Sheik/½ sold to various investors, "oil exporters" "Caribbean banking centers") "borrower is servant to the lender!" Pr22.7

Food/Fuel/Utility prices tied together and rising! Meat/poultry/milk/eggs /butter affected by corn/soy tied to ethanol production/ Fewer shopping trips/week Wheat/rice doubled (3x in production) Changing menus/cutting back/ Restaurants becoming luxury/ Food pantry visits up 50%/Food Cards

Changes for the "Rich & Famous!"

Who's ready to return to the farm? Signing up for L.D. mass transit? Moving family to mega centers/work? Redesigned cities/Company housing?What to do w/no air travel? Internet hikes, all around?

"Suburban America" needs fuel will have to pay---wait---or fight for it!

Why all the facts and figures and gloomy forecasting? We've had hard times in America before and something always happened to pull us out! Someone will come up with a plan... the government will step in somehow and pull us out!

The Stimulus Package! \$168,000,000,000 foreign loan to stimulate our economy! Idea is that we will go out and empty warehouse *supply*/create *demand*. Problem is that people in hard times try to save or pay off existing debt and that doesn't restart manufacturing sector... *"So please spend, don't save, your check!"*

"Despite their good intentions (to save), Americans have an amazing ability for self-deception, and I have full confidence that they're going to end up spending the money regardless of what they say they're going to do with it, once they get the check into their hands." – David Wyss, chief economist, Standard and Poor's

Mark Zandi, chief economist w/Moody's, is expecting that 2/3 of that money will be spent within 6 months, based on the spending habits he saw the last time Americans got a tax rebate, in 2001. He said spending could be slower this time around because the rebate isn't coming along with other tax cuts, and people also may be grappling with more mortgage debt. *On the other hand, the checks will go to more lower-income families this time, and Zandi believes those families are more likely to spend the money.* On the other hand, Zandi said those that use the money to pay down credit card debt may also inadvertently help the economy, *because they'll feel more freedom to run up debt again.*

Asides¹

Along with your "stimulus check" *save* as much cash as you can for times ahead or deals/steals will arise! *If you must buy something big wait until the stimulus package/sales – cash. Must buy really big/wait stimulus package failure/biggest sales – cash.* Higher/more taxes or debt sales ahead! Short, not long, term help!

Asides²

Use it to pay off debt/keep it up! Turn the "snowball" into a freight train! Highest interest/smallest balance. Concentrate on paying it off/adding mo. payment to next bill in line! Pay off *indemnified debt* before *non* in case you run out of time/money! Put \$\$\$ aside/deflect foreclosure... *Especially to save your "cash cow!"*

Asides³

DO NOT INTERRUPT YOUR TITHING COVENANT WITH THE LORD!

All of our efforts mean nothing if we are uncovered before our enemy!

All of our efforts must be worked on the 90% we steward!

Tithe is not ours! Tithe is holy! **Lev 27.28ff**

Tithe is an *obligation* with high indemnity and great benefits! **Mal 3.7-12**

"DO NOT STOP STORING UP TREASURE where it's safe from natural use and wear, and from thieves who come to take away your fruit... Remember, where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Mt 6.19-21

"keep storing for yourselves a good foundation against the time to come, laying hold on eternal life." 1T6.19

"I will say to myself, 'Self, you're set up for many years to come, so don't worry, be happy, eat, drink and be merry!' But God said to him, 'you fool, tonight you will be dying and who will inherit the things you have provided?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself but is not rich toward God!" Lk 12.16ff

"When the Son comes in glory He will separate the people before Him to judge and reward. To those who heard His voice He will say, 'come you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for you continued to do My works of mercy to the end.' And the righteous will go into life eternal." Mt 25.31-46

Okay, things sound tight... and I realize I need to continue to be faithful... But I still believe someone will step up with an answer! The world and the word agree... someone will... A leader will rise to tie things together...

The *world* is screaming for a new leader to enter the scene... The *word* says, "If anyone says to you, He is here, to restore us, don't believe it, for many will rise, and will appear to be successful, but when I come to restore all things it will be evident, like lightning in the sky, so don't be deceived!"
Mt 24.23-27

Business men, scientists, politicians, religious leaders, even the general public knows... There's only one fix for our problems... **New leadership!** Let's make sure our hopes are built on nothing less... than Jesus Blood and Righteousness!

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

With the Words of God in me I will be safe from falling into temptations or end time deceptions... When everything around me gives way I will be prepared to fearlessly stand on His solid ground... My hand in His, I will walk all the way thru this life right into Glory!