

Responding to an Economic Meltdown

We all feel it. You can't escape it. The brooding sense that across this nation we are not doing well financially now and may not for some time. The stock market is flat, the government's bailout plans are uncertain, unemployment is way up, and confidence is way down. What is a believer to do in the midst of this mess?

Does God's Word have anything to say about such uncertain times?

As we consider several passages of Scripture today, let's look for direction...

- Giving our money to God is **risky**.

Matthew 25:14-30

- God **rewards** such **risky** giving.

Hebrews 13:5-6

- Risk requires **action** – give **something**.

I Corinthians 16:2, II Corinthians 8:12

- Give to **our local church** first.

- Give to **missions** second.

- Give to **other ministries** third.

- Choosing to not take a risk is **robbery**.

Malachi 3:8-10

Some questions to take home....

How have I been complicit in the economic meltdown all around me?

Have I been living beyond my personal means?

Have I incurred irresponsible debt?

Have I lived indulgently, a lifestyle directed more by culture than Christ?

Has my life's purpose been more about acquiring stuff,

than living a life of generosity and compassion?

How did I get to the place where I think I can't afford to give to God's Work?

What honestly makes me afraid to give more to God,

and what does that say about my level of love and trust of the Master?

Why do such questions make me uncomfortable?

**We invite you to make a simple commitment to begin tithing
or pursue generous giving above and beyond your tithe.
It is the safe and smart response to an economic meltdown!**