

# ***"Getting our Bearings in Tough Time"***

*January 10, 2009*

*Someone in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." (Luke 12:13)*

Had 3 messages to bring today, but after Men's Retreat several weekends ago, it changed. I got the following email several weeks ago. I would like to share it with you today.

~"Cell Phone vs. The Bible"~

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

- What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- What if we flipped through it several times a day?
- What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
- What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
- What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
- What if we gave it to kids as gifts?
- What if we used it when we traveled?
- What if we used it in case of emergency?



This is something to make you go.....hmm.....where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phones, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill. And there are no dropped calls!

Makes you stop and think – where are my priorities?

~"Getting our Bearings in Tough Time"~

Are you worried or maybe concerned about the economy, your retirement, your property value, your assets, and your and yours, whatever may be of material value to you, etc? I noticed a few weekends ago we had a prayer request for a woman that wanted to die or kill herself; don't remember which, because she had lost all her money in the stock market. Is there more to life than the stock market?

I guess you have read where people have killed themselves and even their families due to their loss in the recent stock market and financial meltdown. And another instance of the stock market scam where a gentleman lost 50

billion dollars of other people's money. Then I'm sure you've heard of the guy here locally in Conover that "allegedly" scammed investors out of millions. He was investing other people's money in his high-standard of living; buying such things as a quarter of a million dollar cars and a million dollar motor home, houses, vacations and living a high and rich life of luxury at the expense of using other's money.

We are a nation that continues to look to government to solve all our problems, regardless what they are; finances, health, education, morals, etc. We look to political leaders for our salvation. May I remind you that Jesus Christ is the only one that is going to save us or fix our moral and economic problems. Jesus Christ is the problem solver. But the nation and our political leaders and the common folks seem to be looking everywhere but the right place. It reminds me of that song a few years ago, "Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places." Well, we are looking for "answers in all the wrong places." We need to keep our eyes upward, on Jesus Christ. *"the author and perfecter of faith."* (Heb 12:2a)

I would say you have heard this poem or nursery rhyme before.



~"Humpty Dumpty poem"~

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall;

Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.

All the King's horses, And all the King's men

Couldn't put Humpty together again!

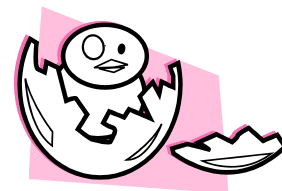
"I have another Humpty Dumpty poem with new words."

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall;

Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.

All the government programs and all the Government men

Couldn't put Humpty together again!



Folks, do you get it? This nation is not going to be fixed by man. It's not going to be fixed by politicians. It's not going to be fixed by programs. It's not going to be fixed by more money. It's only going to be fixed by Jesus Christ for

there is no other way but through the narrow gate. We are now going through the wide gate to destruction at a rapidly descending speed. I hope we all can see and realize what is happening to our freedom and the decaying of America.

We are to keep the faith in Jesus Christ. I found some Faith quotes from Oswald Chambers. Look at what he had to say about our faith.

**"Faith must be tried, and it is the trial of faith that is precious!"**  
--Oswald Chambers (NKW)

**"Faith in the Bible is faith in God against everything that contradicts Him!"**  
--Oswald Chambers (MUFHH)

**"Faith never knows where it is being led; it knows and loves (trusts) the One who is leading!"** --Oswald Chambers (NKW)

And then the opposite of Faith is what? Fear! Oswald Chambers said about fear; **"When you fear God you fear nothing else!"** --Oswald Chambers

As a nation we do not fear God, he's just another one of the boys. He is not given honor, worship and praise as the Bible tells us to do. And fear Him.

What is causing these national and worldwide problems? The financial meltdown? Can I suggest - Greed!!!!

### **Greed Always Hungry**

"Whatever greed is hungry for; it always ends up wanting more. L. & T Spinard

### **Wanting Both**

A teacher had just related to a class of boys the story of the rich man and Lazarus; then he asked, "Now, which would you rather be, boys – the rich man or Lazarus?" One boy relied; "I'd want to be the rich man while I'm living and Lazarus when I die."

Way of Holiness

### **Needs vs. Greeds**

One of the weaknesses of our age is our apparent inability to distinguish our needs from our greed. As the farmer said, "I'm not greedy; all I want is the land next to mine."

*“You Have Our Attention Lord”*

*A Prayer by Max Lucado – October 2008*

*Our friends lost their house  
The co-worker lost her job  
The couple next door lost their retirement  
It seems that everyone is losing their footing*



*This scares us. This bailout with billions.  
These rumblings of depression.  
These headlines: ominous, thunderous-  
“Going Broke!” “Going Down!” “Going Under!” “What’s Next?”*

*What is next?*

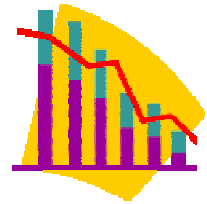
*We’re listening. And we’re admitting: You were right.*

*You told us this would happen.  
You shot straight about loving stuff and worshipping money.  
Greed will break your heart, You warned.  
Money will love you and leave you.  
Don’t put your hope in riches that are so uncertain.*



*You were right. Money is a fickle lover and we just got dumped.*

*We were wrong to spend what we didn’t have.  
Wrong to neglect prayer and ignore the poor.  
Wrong to think we ever earned a dime. We didn’t.  
You gave it. And now, tell us Father, Are You taking it?*



*We’re listening. And we’re praying.  
Could you make something good out of this mess?*

*Of course You can. You always have.  
You led slaves out of slavery,  
Built temples out of ruins,  
Turned stormy waves into a glassy pond and water into sweet wine.  
This disorder awaits your order. So do we.*



*Through Christ,  
Amen*

## ~Concerns~

Reflects our current concerns today, doesn't it? These are world-wide problems; they are not confined to the United States of America. We are all tied together in one big world economy. It's preparing us for that one-world economy, that one-world currency and then that one-world leader, better known as the Anti-Christ. Technology has allowed these events to happen. At no other time in history have we been able to tie together so many people and countries. It's nothing today to jet over the world in hours or short days, to talk to someone from the other side of the continent.

We need to get serious about God; nothing else is going to matter. Times are rapidly moving to the end times. Read your Bible and look at world events! *"And shall Elohim not do right by all means to His own chosen ones who are crying out day and night to Him, and being patient over them? (Luke 18:7 The Scriptures 1998+)* One translation says, *"He will not be slow to answer them."* (NCV)

### **"Getting our "bearings in Tough times" as now-a-days"**

#### ~2 Chronicles 7:14 (King James Version) ~



*"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*

There is an important teaching from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 12, which we will get into in a few minutes.

Where do we turn and what do we do? What should we be thinking about?

- There are things more important than material possessions.
- The Kingdom of God must be first in our live.
- We are to be careful where you put your treasure.
- We are to always be ready for Christ's return.

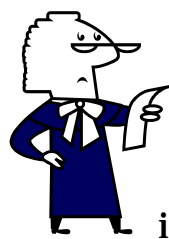
- We must remember that He (Yeshua) did not come to bring peace on His first coming, but division.
- We must read with much interest the times we are in, just as we read the weather and other news. How are you going to know what is going on biblically if you don't study the times in accordance with the Bible, God's Word.
- When we are guilty we must agree with our accuser and find mercy.

We will be starting with verse 13, chapter 12 of Luke.

### **Luke 12:13-34 NASB**

*(13) Someone in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me."*

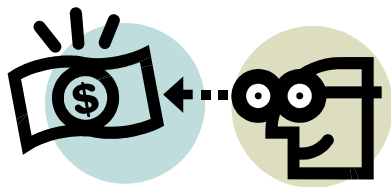
Verse 13 – inheritance has always been a problem, just be one that inheritances with others. I've seen family torn apart by a few dollars or minor possessions.



*(14) But He said to him, "Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?"*

Verse 14 – Jesus seemed to let this money problem be of little importance. He later on gets into the meat or the issue concerning this brother.

*(15) Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."*



Verse 15 – We're always wanting something, aren't we?

We all fall into this trap, especially in the U.S. where we are judged in this world by our material possessions.

The more stuff that we have the better we are looked upon in society. "The one with the most toys wins." I would like to remind you that we are all even at the foot of the cross, no matter how poor or how much money you may have. Jesus Christ cannot be bought with material possessions; for any price! He cannot be bought with materialism, works; we are only saved by His grace.

(16) *And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive."*

Verse 16 – Parable, why did Jesus speak in parables? What is a parable? “It’s a simple story illustrating a moral or religious lesson.”

See Matthew 13 and Isaiah 28.



(17) *"And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?'"*

Verse 17 – Notice the I’s in the verses. Do you notice the greed in the verse?

The rich man had an abundance! We can talk ourselves into anything, can’t we?



(18) *"Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.'"*

Verse 18 – He wanted more. He had enough for himself, but he wanted more.

(19) *'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry."'*

Verse 19 – More I’s, he had a plan. He was going to take it easy, “Live it up” as we would say today. In other words, he will do nothing for building of the Kingdom of God. He thought; it’s all about me, wasn’t it? It’s a ME world.

(20) *"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?'"*

Verse 20 – You fool, that’s pretty powerful, but Jesus can say it, because He is God Almighty. He’s the Accuser, Judge, Arbitrator, and Executioner!

Who will own what you have prepared. This rich man did not have an account in heaven. He had never put anything into his heavenly account; only added to his account here on earth.



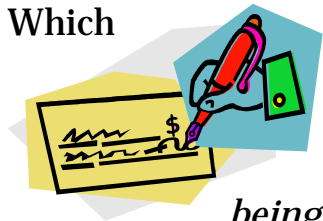
(21) *"So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

Verse 21 – I tell people you have two accounts, one on earth and the other one is in heaven. If you are putting it all away for your earthly account you will not



have any for your heavenly account. You're putting money away in your earthly retirement, why not put some away for your heavenly retirement? It's a lot better and longer retirement.

Which



one is more important, your earthly or heavenly account?

The Apostle Paul said "to be content." Hebrew 13:5, *Make sure that your character is free from the love of money,*

*being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I*

*WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"* (Hebrews 13:5 NASB)

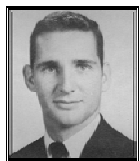
Philippians 4:11-12 *Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.* (Php 4:11 NASB)

*I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.* (Php 4:12 NASB)

### **~Your Goal~**

Your goal is riches toward God and not earthly riches, your earthly riches are only temporary. At the end or when you are dying, you would give it all for one more day. If you don't believe it, go by and see someone dying of cancer or some other illness. You will see what is important to them when on their death bed.

James, a classmate and friend, died of cancer a few years ago. When he



found out, they gave him, I think, maybe it was less than a year to live.

He was telling me, oh if I can only make it one year. He had to live

with the knowledge that his time was short. Every day was precious. I

don't think he was worried about his stuff. He talked about family, friends and relationships.



(22) *And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on.*

(23) *"For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.*

(24) *"Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!*

Verse 24 – We are made in the image of God. Jesus says, “How much more valuable are we than the birds?” We are precious to God!



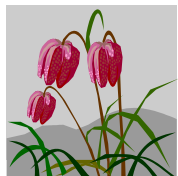
(25) *"And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life's span?"*

Verse 25 – Are you worried about the stock market, your retirement, your stuff.

Whether you lost anything or not, you will be affected. Choose Life, not Death!

(26) *"If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters?"*

Verse 26 – We now have our focus on worldly things; money, materialism, power, fame, looked up to, prestige, etc.



(27) *"Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.*

Verse 27 – We are more blessed than the lilies. Love God's nature.

(28) *"But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You men of little faith!"*

Verse 28 – We all do this. Of course it easier said than done. “Men of little faith.”

(29) *"And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying.*

Verse 29 – Jesus Christ is coming back, how many believe that?

When he comes back He won't need money, He won't need a government or any individual. He has the plan and He is still on Plan A. Not any other plan b c d e f g, etc. His plan has never changed, "He's the same, yesterday, today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

**(30) *"For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things.***



Verse 30 – He's not saying to kick-back and take it easy. Remember the song "Don't Worry, Be Happy." Just kick-back and do nothing. He's not saying this.

Listen to the whole sermon, read all the Scriptures. We are to be working for the Kingdom. We are to take action.

Don't take this verse by its self. Read the whole story, all the verses.

**(31) *"But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you.***

Verse 31 – God will provide all your needs, not your wants, your needs.

I remember several months ago when I was working at The Outreach Center where we give groceries to over a 1000 families each week. I took a lady's groceries to her car and I asked if any prayer requests. She said, "Yes" and asked that I pray for her a new house and it paid for. It caught me a little off guard since I usually have requests for the sick, salvation, finances, and loved one. This request was just more than I was prepared for. Is this request for our "God in a genie bottle," to give her what she wants. I'm not saying that God doesn't give away houses, but we normally have to work for them. What do you think?

**(32) *"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.***

Verse 32 – Focus on the Kingdom, not on earthly things. The Kingdom is ours, just for coming to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and following Him.



**(33) *"Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys.***

Verse 33 – Would you like to take this out of your Bible, but we have to take the whole Bible, not part. Most Christians will probably skip right over this verse.

Give to others that are in need, but be good stewards. Don't give your assets to someone that will waste them or will not use it as God would use it. Fulfill needs not wants. (Philippines 4:19) *And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.* (Php 4:19 NASB) There are people in this world of great need; millions of people dying yearly from starvation.



(34) *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Verse 34 – Change my heart oh God! Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. If anyone here today is guilty then it's time to repent. Get our heart right with God. Make a choice; go with Jesus, not with this world.

~Focus on Jesus~

Time to get your focus on Jesus Christ, and to get ready. This is an opportunity to get our bearings and our focus in tough times.



This is a golden opportunity to talk to others about Christ.

They are searching for an answer. And we have it in Jesus Christ. Others don't know unless we tell them!

Let us all stick close to the Bible, where we can't go wrong.

Keep the human element out of it.

~Remember what Paul said in Timothy~

**I Timothy 6:6-11 (ASV)**

**6** *But godliness with contentment is great gain:*



**7** *for we brought nothing into the world, for neither can we carry anything out;*

**8** *but having food and covering we shall be therewith content.*

**9** *But they that are minded to be rich fall into a temptation and a snare and many foolish and hurtful lusts, such as drown men in destruction and perdition.*

**10** *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil: which some reaching after have been led astray from the faith, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

**11** *But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*

Paul tells us in Colossians who to depend on and it's not our political leaders.

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.*

(Col 1:15 NASB)

*For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him. (Col 1:16 NASB)*

*He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (Col 1:17 NASB)*



*He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. (Col 1:18 NASB)*

Then The Apostle John tells us about Jesus Christ, we are to be ready for:

Revelations 22:12: *“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. (NASB)*

Revelations 22:13: *“I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” (NASB)*

Amen and Amen

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*I have gotten information for this article from a number of different sources; From God, internet, Bibles, dictionaries, and study materials from several different authors, etc. I do not take full credit for these writings since there are many. I did not in some cases keep up with this information in order to give proper credit. My comments, writings and rewriting of the sources are in this article. I therefore cannot take full credit for this writing. The full credit would have to go to Jesus Christ, the creator of all things.*

*This article as well as many other messages can be found at [www.deweyfox.com](http://www.deweyfox.com) and click on Christianity.*

January, 2009

*Dewey E. (Obed) Fox, Bond Servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*

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