

ASCK SERMON NOTES

“REMEMBER THE LORD; WHO GIVES YOU WEALTH”

[Deuteronomy 8.18]

by

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ON

[Sunday, 6th August 2017]

PART I: PRELIMINARIES

1. Preamble

- Good morning/afternoon Brothers and Sisters in the Lord
- I bring you greetings in the Precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ
- Surprise Preacher this am/pm ⇒totally unqualified, except by the grace of God “...*who qualified me ...to be partaker of the inheritance of saints in the light ...*”. Colossians 1.12.
- Brief personal history (incl. major achievements).....up to 14th Sept 2014 when “.....*I heard the voice of Jesus say, come unto me and rest.....*”. **OPTION: SING 1ST STANZA**
- Like Mary Magdalene [*St. John 20:18*], I saw the Lord! Hence, the only qualification is that: **I am a forgiven sinner!** Praise the Lord!

- And since then “.....**times of refreshing.....**” *have continually* come to me from the presence of the Lord [Acts 3.19] and lived at “....**peace like a river.....**”.
- I thank the Church and all Ministers of God at ASCK for according me this opportunity to share with you, what the Lord has put on my heart, on one of my favourite “thought areas”: WEALTH!
- What is WEALTH?
- This will become manifest later, but: **Wealth is life! And life is wealth!**
- The whole Bible is about wealth [Gen 1 to Rev 22].
- To-day, being the first Sunday of the month, is also ACP Sunday; and, thus, this **a most apt Theme** for the day and for our conversation about wealth (6th August 2017). *In last Sunday’s Pew Leaflets; we were also notified to “prepare” to give generously.*
- Let us pray. **PRAYER Q.V**

2. Introduction

- Brothers and Sisters, I can reasonably state that, except for rare visitors, all of us here, → have heard that in August last year (2016), the Church of Uganda (and coincidentally the Government of Uganda) **declared** 2017 to be: **The Year of the Family**.
- But for me: “**Every year is the year of the family**”; this because (taking a leaf from Physical Chemistry) the family is the **socio-economic “molecule”**, out of which the body of any society, or nation or, indeed, the entire international

community is built [cf H₂O]. God so decreed [*Gen 2.18, 24 & 9.1*].

- Therefore, it is an absolute imperative that for continued integrity of any nation, and, indeed, the whole world, every **family should** be (and remain) **a cohesive and sacrosanct unit**.
- But as most of us know, here in Uganda and the world over “the Family” is under attack by the Evil One ⇒(i) homosexuality (1st decade of the century), (ii) adultery (this decade), (iii) domestic violence, (iv) divorce etc.[**God hates divorce: Malachi 2.16**].
- Most of us will be aware that since January 2017, ASCK has faithfully, and richly, followed the overall **Theme** of: BUILDING FAMILIES FOR GOD’S PURPOSE [The reference text for which is (RECITE): **Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve; but as for me and my household, we shall serve the Lord!** *Joshua 24.15*].
- Under this overall theme, the ACK has had **monthly themes**, viz
 - January: **Building Families for God’s Purpose**
 - February: **Biblical Characters (Adam & Eve, Noah, Abraham & Sarah, Hannah)**
 - March: **The Family in Distress**
 - April: **Family Stewardship**
 - May: **The Family in Mission**
 - June: **Sacrifice**
 - July: **Family Spirituality**
 - August: **FAMILY ECONOMY** [*Big Names like Mrs Grace Masala Kulangwa, Rev. Hillary Jaffu, Sam Ewou etc to come*]

- September: **Train up a Child**
 - October: **Stewardship**
 - November: **Media's Influence**
 - December: **God became Man**
- } TO COME
- All sharing on the above Sub-Themes, by various Preachers, has been richly endowed by the Holy Spirit (Dr Kedrace Turyagyenda's plea → 4 Sermons ago → a synoptic collection of all year's Sermon into a **Booklet**, January or soon after, next year).

3. Structure of the Sermon

- Out of the four (4) Sermons on the FAMILY ECONOMY to-day's Theme is: **"REMEMBER THE LORD; WHO GIVES YOU WEALTH"**.
- Key words are: **Wealth, Remember, the Lord**
- **Remember** [*from Dictionary*]: (i) recall to memory, or (ii) convey or bear my message to, OR (iii) recollect or commemorate in **honour** or **mystical contemplation** in a **ceremony**.
- Brothers and Sisters, I believe that because of the exhortation in Verses 10 and 11 of the 1st Reading to us, viz to **"...bless the Lord..."** and **".....to keep His commandments..."**, it is meaning No (iii) that is applicable to to-day's Sermon.
- **"Wealth"** and **"the Lord"**: we shall dwell on in the rest of this Sermon.
- But **".....knowledge of the Lord..."** is a lifelong pursuit. [*See e.g Paul's lifelong desire in Phil 3.10 w.r.t the "Lord" & compare with 1 Cor*

13.12: For now “.....we see the Lord in a mirror dimly...”].

- On **wealth**, I have sectionalized our conversation in four (4) parts as below
 - I. Preliminaries
 - II. Types of Wealth
 - III. Honouring God in Acquisition and Management of Wealth
 - IV. Conclusion & Finale
- In Section III, we consider for each type of Wealth
 - (a) What is **it**?
 - (b) How do you **get it**?
 - (c) How do you **remember God** in managing it (bringing out Benefits and Risks)?
- This Sermon is going to be a **Conversion** (about wealth): thus
 - (i) **Participatory** (selectively).
 - (ii) In part interspersed with brief **Praises** ⇒ “.....**singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord**”. [Col. 3.16].
 - (iii) Finally, we shall all be invited to make a **corporate commitment** to the Lord regarding **acquisition and management of the wealth** He has given and/or is to give us. [For this reason, you were (??) encouraged to bring with you a pen or pencil; pieces of Paper have been provided at each entrance to the Sanctuary].

PART II: TYPES OF WEALTH

4. Types of Wealth

- If I had one (1) Billion of these [*HOLD OUT A 50,000 SHILLING NOTE*], would I be wealthy?
- The answer is NO! Money is only a medium of exchange. [*IF TIME ALLOWS ⇒ AMIN ERA ANECDOTE ⇒ One had “Money” but nothing to buy!*].
- In the 2nd Reading read to us, *Luke 12.13-21*, our Lord defined two (2) types of wealth, Verse 15 (**Material Wealth as “material possession”**) and in Verse 21 (**Spiritual Wealth as “....richness towards God...”**).
- Elsewhere in the Bible and in the Gospels, He also defined the 3rd type, e.g. *Matthew 5.24 & 25 (Reconcile with your brother)*, *Luke 10.25-37 (The Good Samaritan)* *Job 5.23 (“....stones and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with you...”)*.
- Thus, in **ascending order of importance: Three (3) Types of Wealth** are
 - (i) **Material Wealth** ⇒ Assets acquirable (or acquired) using money [***Our Area of Concentration to-day***].
 - (ii) **Physical Wealth** (essentially **relationships** with)
 - (a) Self
 - (b) Your Spouse
 - (c) Your children
 - (d) Relatives
 - (e) Friends

- (f) Humanity
- (g) Other Living things [ENVIRONMENT]
- (h) Inanimate creation, including air, water, water surfaces, stones, minerals, the soil, sand etc [ENVIRONMENT].

(iii) **Spiritual Wealth**: Relationship with God.

- Thus, all counted: Wealth was **Originally a Humanity Relationship with God I** →Chapter 2 of Genesis.
- So now, **after the fall** (*Chapter 3*): Each Calls for **Capital Formation**, viz (1) *Economic Capital*, (2) *Social Capital*, and (3) *Spiritual Capital*.
- The fall of man (*Gen 3*) was and still is the most horrific human even in all history.
- I sometimes ask myself two questions about Adam, namely
 - (i) Apart from where he was (as the devil was having this **dangerous conversation** with his wife, previously asked by another Preacher, Mr Dickson Obwoya), when he returned, why did he not ask his wife why she had eaten “...*from the tree of which..... God had commanded they do not eat....*”, instead just also “*eating*” of the same?
 - (ii) Secondly, have so done, against God’s command, when god asked him (Verse 11). “...*have you eaten from the tree which I commanded you not to eat....*”, why did he not own up, apologize and repent: “...*Yes, I did my Lord, and I am sorry....*”.
- But he did not; therefore, Sin came into the World, at times referred to as **Original Sin**, namely disobedience to God.
- This Sin is “fed” by three principal bases of Sin (see Chapter 3.6).
 - (i) Lust of the **Eyes**
 - (ii) Desires of the **Flesh**
 - (iii) Pride of the **Heart**.
- The last of the three (3) is signified by Adam’s introduction of the Word “I” (*Gen 3.10*) in all creation, **self-centredness**, fortified by **Adamic Logic**, namely

- (i) The **Continuum Assumption** ⇒ if everybody is doing it, it's okay (Verse 6).
 - (ii) The **Necessary Condition Fallacy** ⇒ A necessary (or situational) condition is sufficient, e.g. in the Amin Days, that because he was uneducated and President, education was irrelevant.
 - (iii) The **Deflection Logic** in Debates (see Adam's "Responses" to God's Question in Verses 9 & 11)...**generously used by all of us, esp. Politicians.**
- Furthermore, the human race lost all the privileges of Paradise, namely
 - (i) Loss of **authority over other creation** (originally given in Gen 1.28) ⇒ a significant **paradigm shift** from **cooperation** to **confrontation** (Gen 3. 17c & 18a) ⇒ everything in nature has a positive and a negative, e.g. The Sun produces energy for production of food, but also scotches you by noon, working in the field.
 - (ii) Most importantly, the human race let the original relationship with God.
 - In other words: Each of the three (3) Types of wealth has to be (1) **Acquired** the hard way and (2) **Managed**

III. REMEMBERING GOD WHO GIVES YOU WEALTH

5. Material Wealth: *Economic Capital*

5.1 Generally: How do you get it?

- Because of the Fall, this is, by far, the most all-time commonplace and **tenuous** form of wealth (*Gen 3.19*); and **also opens wide avenues for impeding of the other forms of wealth**, viz MSR (Mainly Supply Routes) for **poor human relationships**, *poor relationships with God's Creation* and *poor relationships with God*. [St. Luke 12.21].
- **How is it attained?**
 - i) **Labour** (*Gen 3.17 & 19* → Productive engagement) ⇒ Creates **Planted Wealth** [*Psalm 128.2*]: When you eat the labour of your Hands, You shall be happy and it shall be well with you.
 - ii) **Transfers [Inheritance or other]** → creates **Planted Wealth** (through Labour or Windfall)
 - iii) **"Illicit" Gains** ⇒ create **Piratic Wealth**, e.g. Gambling, Theft (violent or otherwise), abuse of office or Gehazism (*2 Kings 5.20-27*), **bribery, corruption**, short-changing, usury etc all manner of **".....reaping where you did not sow....."**: *Matthew 25.24*].

5.2 Piratic Wealth

- The Bible is replete with binding **edicts** against Paratic Wealth, e.g.

(i) You shall not **steal** [*Exodus 20.15: Ten Commandments No.8*].

(ii) You shall not take a **bribe** [*Exodus 23.8*] **You shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds discerning and perverts the words of judgement**].

(iii) You shall walk with **integrity** ⇒ no covetousness, lying etc [*Proverbs 10.9*].

(iv) You shall deal honestly. [*Proverbs 13.11* ⇒ **Wealth gained dishonestly will be diminished!**]

(v) You should not acquire wealth by trickery or deceit [*Proverbs 20.17: Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man; but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel*].

(vi) **Economic justice:** In trade and all exchange have “.....**a perfect measure and just weight....**” [*Deut. 25.15 & Lev 19.35*].

(vii) **In general: Do to others what you would they do unto you.**

- Edicts (ii) – (v), mainly refer to the employed, e.g. **Public Servants** (in Uganda!).

- For the **employed**, an overall edict was given by our Lord in [*Luke 16.12*], namely: “...**If you have been unfaithful in what is**

another man's, who will give you what is your own?.....”.

- Edict (vi) mainly refer to **Employers**.
- In addition, some Employers do not pay their Employees in time or on time; this is sinful [Lev. 19.13] states: ***“.....The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning.....”.***
- If you accumulated your wealth (big or small), in part, or in total, through any of the above ways, then **your wealth needs cleansing** ⇒it cannot be an offering to the Lord (in part or in total). Otherwise: death. Because ***“.....there is way that seems right to man; but its end is the way of death...”.*** Proverbs 16.25.:
- Examples: RWAKATOGORO (Kabale SDR of the 1990s: Cause of “stolen” GOU MABATI⇒he repented and made a restitution); others did not repent e.g Acan [Joshua 7], Jezebel (1 Kings 21.5-16), King Belshazzar [Daniel 5. 1-29], Judas Iscariot, SOLOMON, did later and declared that all riches ***“...were vanity of vanities...”*** [Eccl.1.2] and regarding accumulation of 100% “wives” that ***“...live joyfully with the wife whom you love all your life...”*** [Eccl. 9.9].

5.3 Planted Wealth: How to honour God in Acquisition of Planted Wealth

- Essentially granted by God [*Gen 3.17*: This was in part Judgement; but the “..... **judgements of God are perfect ...true and righteous....**” [*Psalms 19.9*]
- But acquired through labour [*Proverbs 14.23*: **[In all labour there is profit]**]
- Exercised by the **Family** (as an SBU ⇒ Strategic Business Unit)
 - (i) Historically and currently establishments are either family-based or originally were, e.g. Barclays, Toyota, Borsch etc.
 - (ii) In the amended **Domestic Relations Bill** a Pre-Marriage Property Contract is being proposed ⇒this is the road to destruction of the Family Institution in Uganda ⇒Christian MPs please delete it!
 - (iii) Marriage is **covenant** and not a Contract (see *God’s Design in Gen 2.24 & Malachi 2.14d*).
 - (iv) Therefore Family needs a **shared Family Vision**.
 - (v) What we currently have and practice in Uganda is individual-based **Petty Capitalism**, which cannot prosper into large PLCs.
- Such Petty Enterprises have even been aggregated up to a Nation, e.g. Uganda; or

Region e.g EAC; or Continent, e.g. Africa we need a shared vision e.g built on a **Model African Village?**⇒ Calls for **Godly Leaders** ⇒How many of these do we currently have on the African Continent⇒ take a Census ⇒if more (or a few), Africa will not **prosper!** [Deut.17.14-20, Job 34.17, Proverbs 29.2].

- Back to the family, **family wealth** must be **acquired** in a manner that **honours the Name of the Lord**, viz
 - (i) Reverse-coining the evils and malpractices of Paratic Wealth ⇒**Namely honest labour.**
 - (ii) With due **diligence**, namely **hard work** [Eccl. 9.10]: **Whatever your hand finds to do it with all your might ⇒ The Christian Work Ethic**] and in full reverence to God [Col. 3.23: **And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men**].

5.4 How do you “remember” the Lord in management of Material Wealth?

- **Lesson One:** What did God tell the children of Israel to do?
 - (i) Take **possession** of the land and diligently till and graze the land responsibly, recognizing His endowments, e.g. soil fertility and rain, in season. [Lev.26.4].

(ii) Remember and honour him with all their harvests (**unblemished**) on the

(1) Sabbath Offerings [*Numbers 28.9-10*] + 6 Dedicated Offerings [*Lev. 1,3,4,5*] with the longest detail on **Sin Offering** (Ch.4);

(2) 6 Feasts with different offerings [*Lev. 23 1-44*]

(3) Plus Daily & Monthly Offerings [*Numbers 28.1*];

(4) Passover Offerings [*Numbers 28.16-25*].

(iii) Finally, from Abraham's exchange with Medchizedec, King of Sodom [*Gen.14.18-24*], dedicates **10%** of their assets to the Lord ⇒ memorial offering, apart from the **Temple Tax** [*Matth 17.24-27*].

- Quite a few! How would we have fared if the church had adopted all these?

- **Lesson Two:** *How did this ALL Work out for the Children of Israel?*

(i) To-day's 1st reading, from Deuteronomy 12.13-21 is part of a final and orderly charge by Moses, on over 2,000 Mosaic Laws, sequestered in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers, regarding the "*Future of the Israel as a Godly Nation*", covering.....

(1) A narration of how God's mighty hand **delivered** them from slavery in Egypt and formed them in a nation

- (2) How they should **worship** the Lord, after taking **possession** of the land of milk and honey (Canaan).
 - (3) How they will **organize** and manage their **society**, including attributes of Kings [read **Leaders** ⇒ *Deut. 17.14-20*].
- (ii) The book is sequestered with warnings of **dire consequences** (as is our text in Verses 19 & 20) of non-observance of God's commands.
 - (iii) Did the Israelites observe these laws, esp. on Wealth Management? YES & NO!

(1) YES, in that they observed all the above feats and made offerings

(2) But the charge in *Verses 19 & 20 of Deut. 8* was not misplaced! Gradually, Israel descended in intolerable ungodliness, partly evidenced by offerings to the Lord "mechanically"

(3) Thus, **at the height of Israel prosperity** (800-500 B.C), God raised various prophets to warn of the Israelites dire consequences of ".....*forgetting the Lord....*" and not keeping his commandments. (*ALL prosperous Nations like in the West ⇒ beware*).

(4) Typically two (2) contemporaries had this to say (by the Spirit):

(a) **".....These people.....draw near with their mouths; And**

honour Me with their lips; But their hearts (are) far from Me.....
[Isaiah 29.13].

(b) **“.....I desire mercy not sacrifice; And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.....”** [Hosea 6.6].

- The most important tenet in management of wealth to remember is that all **your material wealth belongs to God** and that you are only a **steward**.

(i) **“.....All things come from You; And of Your own we have given You...”**
[1Chron.29.14b].

(ii) The **“Silver and the gold are mine”**:
[Haggai: 2.8].

(iii) **Everything under heaven is mine**
[Job. 41.11].

(iv) All) **the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners.....** [Lev. 25.23].

- Therefore, material wealth and, indeed, all wealth is to be managed in a **manner that honours God** (following the Word of God), with focus on moderation in all thoughts, words and actionsesp in eating and drinking [Cor 8.8] and not in a **showy display** of prosperity [St. Luke 12.19].
- Otherwise, one is likely to manage your wealth in way that **“....seems right to man but its end is the way of death....”**. [Proverbs 16.25].

Examples:

UK Pools Winner of the 1960s, Elvis Presley ⇒ No happiness in material wealth without God: “.....I have never seen a happy billionaire....”. [Trump!] also see Arthur Ashe Testimony (in Attachment I). “If (material) wealth is the secret to happiness, then the rich should be dancing on the street; but only poor kinds do that....”.

- So, in management of Material Wealth, you act as **true steward of the Lord** [with little or much: ... “...**He who can’t be trusted to manage little can’t manage much...**”: [Luke 16.10See also Verse 12 if you are an Employee].
 - (i) With **thanksgiving**: “Sing to the Lord for His bounties for you” [Psalm 13.6] the charge in Deut.8.10: “...You shall bless the Lord your God for the good.....which He has given you....”.
 - (ii) Have your Wealth Management **Plan** or **Practices** (written or otherwise), including **Tithing**. [Not a mechanical act ⇒ Example of Owner of Caterpillar in USA, elaborate on how the world-renowned owner of earth-moving equipment decided to give to God up to 90% of his financial resources].
 - (iii) But, even after tithing, **remember** that what remains also belongs to God [**Recall the**

mechanical operationalization of 10% Tithe by the Jews.

- (iv) Give to the Church of God for various purposes
 - (1) **Regularly** (*cf: daily offerings in the Jewish temple*),
 - (2) **Generously** [*The Old Lady with the 2 Mites story in St. Luke 21.1-4*],
 - (3) **Cheerfully** [*2 Cor. 9.7*] and
 - (4) **Reverently**
 - (5) Always recalling that:
- (v) **Giving to God is an Act of Worship:** **ELABORATE**
- (vi) This includes giving for
 - 1) Building of God's Temples: [*Exodus 36.1-7*]: **Tabernacle** → **People gave more than enough**
 - 2) *1 Chronicles 29.1*: **Solomon's Temple** ⇒ People gave more than enough. Verse 1: **"...the Temple is not for man but for the Lord God"....**David said
 - 3) *Haggai 1.4-9*, esp 4,5,6 & 9: **Re-Building of the Temple** ⇒ Not nearly enough!! **READ.**
 - 4) ASCK: **New Cathedral** (5,000 Seater): Where are we?
 - 5) Giving to God is not (a mere) fundraising!
 - 6) In general: **Give to God with your heart and not by your hand** [*2 Cor 8.5*].

- Be diligent in **honouring all your financial promises/pledges** and vows [*Deut.23.21:Q.V*] ⇒ **READ.**
- Organize an expenditure and **lifestyle that honours** God and exalts His Name. [CITE some good and bad examples], with focus on moderation in all things.
- Finally, have a **future investment and succession plan.** [Bad Example: King David⇒ Good Wealth continues to grow and venerate the Name of the Lord].
- But in summary on Material Wealth:
 - i) In and only in tribulation you acquire it; generates some **happiness**, but this is **short-lived.**
 - ii) Not **secure** [Can be stolen or eaten by moths or lost [*St. Math 6.19*].
 - iii) **Relentless pursuit** of material wealth, viz “.....**boasting of one’s heart’s desire for it and blessing the greedy....**” [*Psalm 10.3*] and can enslave you [*Psalm 9.16: The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands*] and can be the **root of all evil in your evil in your life** [*1 Tim 6.10*].

Sighted a saying: What brings out the character of a man is: His long-suffering when he is poor and his attitude when he is rich.

- Especially attitude towards the **rest of creation and God.**

6. Physical Wealth: [Social Capital: Very Brief Remarks]

- All are God-given **relationships** and are superior to material wealth [ELABORATE].

I received an Anon Message:

- To understand **life** better, **consider 3 locations**, viz (i) Hospital, (ii) Prison and (iii) Cemetery.
- At the **Hospital**, you will understand that nothing is more beautiful than **HEALTH**.
- In **Prison**, you will understand that **FREEDOM** is the most precious thing.
- At the **Cemetery**, you will realize that life (read **Material Wealth**) is worth nothing. The ground we walk on to-day will be our roof tomorrow.

6.1 Self

- **Time:** is **God-given** and is, therefore, **precious** and **priceless**.
- Remain healthy [**A large ransom will not help you avoid it poor health and eventual death.** [Job 36.18].
- Socially self-integrated ⇒ Not a split atom ⇒ A split personality, serving both “**...God and Mammon....**” [St. Matth. 6.24].

6.2 Spouse

- Separate Sermon (Dr Kedrace Turyagyenda)
- Picked: Venerate the “**foundations of growing together**” [Gen 3.24]
- Your Spouse in “**Your companion and wife by covenant**” [Malachi.2.14].

6.3 Children

- Couples covenant with God in their Marriage Ceremony to “*raise their children in the fear of God*” [Last Sunday’s Sermon by Mrs Betty Mugisha].”
- Do just that, bringing out the Spiritual Gift of each [Previous Sermon: July 2017].

6.4 Rest of Humanity

- Live at peace with all people [Romans 12.18]
- In full brotherhood: *Parable of the Good Samaritan*.

6.5 Other Living Creation of God

- Make a covenant with God to have a responsible dominion over these [Job 5.23b].

6.6 Inanimate Creation

- Make a covenant with God to have a responsible dominion over these.
[Job 5:23a: **For you shall have a covenant with the stones of the field; and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with you**].

Question:

- Brother, Sister: Are you able to remember God in acquisition and management of Material Wealth and Physical Wealth without the power of God? NO! for: ***where your treasure is, there your heart will be also***: St. Luke 12.34 & the *Story of the Rich Young Ruler*: Luke 18.18-23].

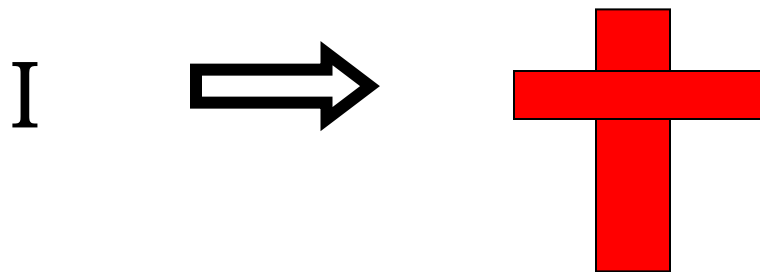
7. Spiritual Wealth: *Spiritual Capital*

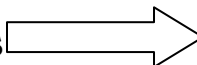
- Spiritual capital is a measure of your relationship with God.
- As in the Gospel Reading read to us, it is to do with how “**...rich you are towards God...**” [St. Luke 12.21].
- This is primary wealth, and the only True Wealth, the **power of God**, all providing and external, to be sought first [St. Matth 6.33]: **“...SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS AND ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE ADDED TO YOU...”**.
- But like all capital, it has to be **accumulated** ⇒ For “**No good thing does He withhold from those who walk righteously**” [Psalm 84.11].
- This is: **Paradise Lost** and **Paradise Regained** [John Milton, 1608-1674, died aged 65 years].
- This is **Real Wealth** of being (i) at **Peace** (ii) in **Love** (iii) by **Faith** and with **Hope** etc. [Gal 5.21-22].
- No money or the whole world can give this [St. Matth. 16.26: **What does profit a man if he**

gains the whole world and (then) loses his soul?

- No relative or anything in the whole world can give you this ⇒ God, through His eternal desire to have a relationship with the human race, took it upon Himself to send His only begotten Son to live on the earth to CROSS THE “I” of Adam [Gen.3], and turn it into the CROSS, in order to reconcile us with God.

**CHART I: CHRIST “DESTROYED” THE BED
ROCK OF SIN: VICTORY AT CALVARY**



Self-Centredness  **Christ-Centredness**

- The message of the Cross is that: ***Christ came into the world to save sinners; and this is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. [1Tim 1.15].***
- The message of the CROSS is: ***The Power of God [1 Cor 1.18].***

- It is a 2nd chance (after Adam), for a walk with God (i) through your earthly life and then (ii) with Him in glory [*Rev. 21.4: **No tears, no more death, no sorrow, no crying.....***] with the Name of God marked on your fore-heads living in permanent heavenly light and glitter, with endless provisions [*Rev. 22.1-5*].
- But to **those who are perishing**, [*Rev. 20.15*], **it is foolishness** [*Cor 1.18*].
- How does one acquire this wealth ⇒ **the power of God?** IT IS FREE: THROUGH PERSONAL SALVATION & RECONCILIATION WITH GOD.
- **But: You “Choose that good part which cannot be taken away”**. [Cf: Mary: *Luke 10.42*].
- **Firstly:** Recognise that you (and I) are **sinners: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.** [*Romans 3.23 & 5.8*].
- **Secondly:** recognize that only God can save
 - (i) *Daniel 3.29: “....There is no other God who can deliver like this.....*
 - (ii) *John 10.10: I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly.*
 - (iii) *John 14.6: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; No one comes to the Father except through me.*
 - (iv) *John 15.5: Without me you can nothing.*

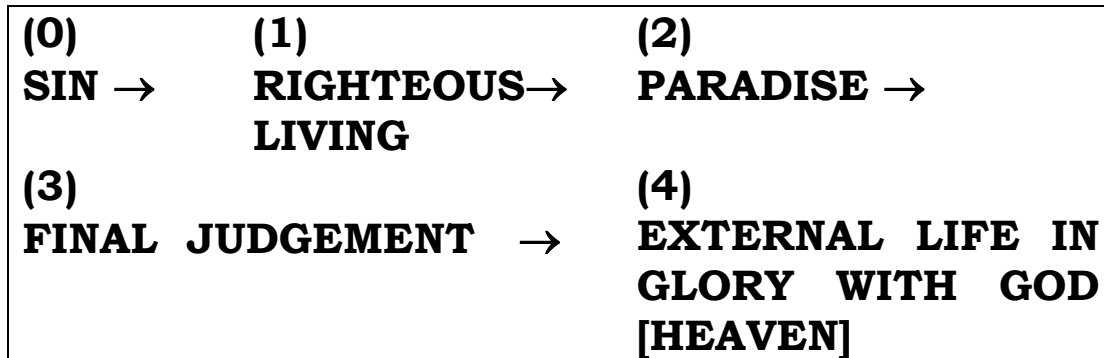
- (v) Acts 4.12: **“Nor is no salvation in any other; for there is, no other Name....”**.
 - (vi) **Whoever cries upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved** [Rom.10.13 & Joel 2.32].
- And remember: This is a world which is the Devils “Comfort Zone” [Rev.12.7-12].
 - (i) **“...Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows he has a short time...”** .
 - (ii) The Devil does have infinite power to tempt anybody on earth [even Jesus, Matth 4.1-17] until the Day of Judgement?
 - (iii) But, his power is linear, viz **mono-dimensional**.
 - (iv) God’s power is **multi-dimensionally infinite** (or even infinite-dimensionally infinite) ⇒ that’s why you need His power to be free from Sin.
 - **Thirdly:** Respond, in believing in your heart, to the Lord’s permanent invitation. [**For gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable:** Rom 11.29], viz

COME UNTO ME, ALL YOU WHO LABOUR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.

• **St. Matthew 11.28**

- **Fourthly: Confess with your mouth that the Lord Jesus is your Lord and Saviour, and believe in Him will be saved** [Rom. 10.9].
- **Fifthly: Take up your cross** and follow the Lord⇒ **live righteously** to the end.
- And as He promised, the Lord shall make You **free** indeed.[John 8.32].
 - (1) **Free from Sin** [John 8.34 & Rom 8.21].
 - (2) **Free from Fear** [2 Tim. 1.7].
 - (3) **Freedom to be a Child** of God [John 1.12, & Rom 8.14].

CHART II: TRANSITIONAL ROUTE TO HEAVEN



IV. CONCLUSION & FINALE

- We shall now conclude with a Corporate Commitment in which we **take all our impediments** [HAVE YOU LISTED YOURS?] in honouring God in Acquisition and Management of Wealth to the **Cross**.
- This is because the blood of the Lamb can “break” every fetter [HE CAN BREAK EVERY FETTER: **Chorus**].
- And according to *1 Cor 1.18*: **The message of the Cross.....is the Power of God!** [*If Time allows, brief on “Professional Christian”, from Billy Graham’s “How to be a Christian without being Religious”, and The 2 Thieves crucified with the Lord*].
- Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, I now request that we all stand (for a minute since; **Nobody has the monopoly of Sin! We are all sinners**); **Be still and know that the Lord is God. “I am God”, he says** [*Psalm 46.10*].

- **PRAYER**

- Our Lord and Father in heaven
- We acknowledge and proclaim that all salvation, power, honour, glory and wealth belong to you
- We, individually and collectively, confess that **we have all sinned and fallen short of your glory** in acquisition and management of the wealth you have given us
- We pray for **your forgiveness** as a church and as individuals
- We beseech you that **impediments** blocking our realization of fuller relationship with you, here written and those we do not remember, **be removed** by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Name of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ
- As far as the West is from the East
- Leaving us to await and bask in a **new and glorious dawn** of your riches in glory
- Here in our walk with you on earth and in the life to come
- In the Almighty Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ we have prayed this.

AMEN!

- **THE CORPORATE COMMITMENT**

- I'll, therefore, invite you to move forward for the Corporate Commitment (as many as possible) as we

affirm this in the CHORUS. [THERE IS POWER, POWER, WONDER WORKING POWER!].

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) All our (my) Material
Wealth Problems: | WE (I)SEND
THEM TO THE
CROSS OF
CHRIST |
| (2) All our (my) Physical
Wealth Problems: | “ |
| (3) All our (my) Spiritual
Wealth Problems: | “ |
| AND FINALLY | |
| (4) ALL OUR (MY) SINS : | WE (I)PIN THEM
ON THE CROSS
OF THE RISEN
CHRIST. |

AMEN! AMEN! AMEN!
