

This Pivotal Moment
The Battle for Kingdom Culture

Transforum
2010

which cannot be shaken may remain

shake not only the earth,
but also heaven... that the things
which cannot be shaken may remain

— Hebrews 12:26-27



GoStrategic

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GoStrategic (Formerly Strategic Christian Services)

Founded in 1979 by Dennis Peacocke who serves as President, GoStrategic is a prophetic ministry committed to training and equipping leaders of every cultural sphere in discipling nations and transforming the world. GoStrategic operates internationally, educating Christians through our Business Leadership School and Strategic Life Training correspondence schools, events, educational products, networking, and consulting services. Our ministry headquarters are based in Santa Rosa, California, with affiliates and schools in Mexico, Central and South America, Europe, Asia, and New Zealand.

GoStrategic equips believers to be leaders in the communities where they live, work, and serve. We specialize in bridging the gap between spiritual truth and the practical implementation of those truths in confronting real-world problems. With over three decades of experience educating, modeling, and connecting like-minded individuals, we have seen first-hand the fruit of Christians applying Biblical principles to the most complex challenges. It is our sincere hope that the services we provide result in thousands of communities transformed as believers step in to rebuild, repair, and restore our world. To learn more, please visit our website: www.gostrategic.org

A former business owner, Dennis Peacocke is the founder and president of GoStrategic, a Christian leadership organization dedicated to demonstrating the relevance of Christianity to every area of contemporary life. He has authored four books: *On the Destiny of Nations*, *Winning the Battle for the Minds of Men*, *Doing Business God's Way*, and *The Emperor Has No Clothes*, as well as recorded numerous audio and video presentations.

Dennis and his wife Jan reside in Santa Rosa, California. They have three adult children and eleven grandchildren.

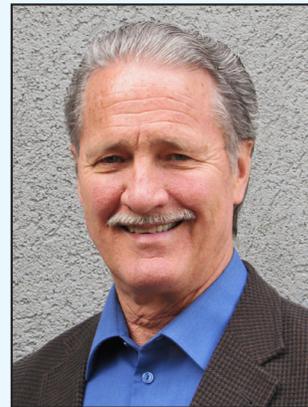
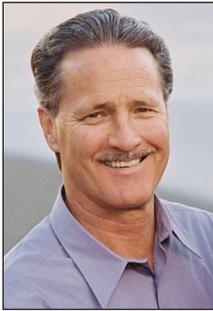




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SPEAKERS



Dennis Peacocke

A former business owner, Dennis is the founder and president of GoStrategic, a non-profit organization dedicated to demonstrating the relevance of Christianity to every area of contemporary life. He has authored three books: *Winning the Battle for the Minds of Men*, *Doing Business God's Way*, *The Emperor Has No Clothes*, and *On the Destiny of Nations*. He has also recorded numerous audio and video presentations. Dennis and his wife Jan reside in Santa Rosa, California. They have three adult children and eleven grandchildren. www.gostrategic.org

Dutch Sheets

Apostle Dutch Sheets has led the local congregation in Colorado Springs and founded both Dutch Sheets Ministries and the United States Alliance for Reformation. He is a well-established author whose fervent desire to see transformation through the power of passionate prayer provides the foundation for many of his books. Dutch now resides in Colorado Springs, CO with Ceci, his wife of 31 years. His two daughters, Sarah and Hannah, and son-in-law Blake also play a vital role in his ministry. www.dutchsheets.org



Gerald R. Chester, Ph.D.

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Ron Coverson, MBA

Ron Coverson is the Assistant Athletic Director and Human Resources Director for Stanford University's Athletic Department. Over the past decade, Ron has worked with several diverse industries. Before establishing the management consulting firm Quantum Performance Systems in 1996, Ron worked with Levi Strauss and Company as a senior human resources consultant. Ron is currently doing research for a new book entitled "Power and Grace." Ron lives in the San Francisco bay area with his wife Elizabeth, and their three children. www.qpsdelivers.com



Adam Peacocke

Adam Peacocke currently serves as pastor of City Life Fellowship and is part of the leadership of Together in Christ Santa Rosa. His community involvement includes serving on the Mayor's Gang Policy Task Force for the City of Santa Rosa and as President of the Board for Hope Works Santa Rosa, a gang intervention program. He also serves as a member of the board at GoStrategic and served as director of Strategic Life Training from 1994 - 2000. Adam lives in Santa Rosa, CA with his wife Joanne and their four children. www.citylifefellowship.com

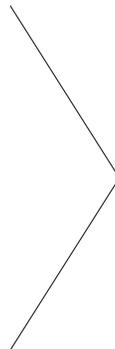
The Storm the Church Must Face

by Dutch Sheets

I. Introduction:

- A. Marketplace ministry
- B. Now 7 Mountains -- mind molders

- 1. Religion
- 2. Family
- 3. Media
- 4. Government
- 5. Education
- 6. Arts and Entertainment
- 7. Business



These make up a society

- C. Jesus was raised in a marketplace home; God wanted Him to think marketplace; 90% of His parables came from marketplace examples.

II. Five Words (If I listen to you talk, I'll know what you believe, and what you believe you will do.)

A. **Calling/Called** – Klesis – occupation (Holy!). All of us.

B. **Purpose** – Prothesis

C. **Ministry/Minister**

- 1. Doulos – bond slave
- 2. Latreis – serve from worship or relationship (not compulsion). Co-labor. Co-mission.
- 3. Diakonos – serve our “gift” (All have). Acts 6 – word and prayer; tables.
- 4. Huperetes – the under rowers; together
- 5. Therapon – healer (Ps. 133) Sun armo logeo

D. **Church**

E. **Kingdom**

III. The Darkening Storm – Kingdom Rising: The Storm the Church must face.

A. Hebrews 12: 18-29 – Paraitomai – “ask to be excused, the thing asked being too difficult”; “to decline.”

B. Matt 16:13-19. There is a coming storm. This should be our finest hour! A shaking in the earth; everything that can be will be.

- 1. Disease
- 2. Wars

3. Radical Islam – terrorism
4. Secular Humanism
5. Starvation – hunger – famine
6. Collapse of nations
7. Death culture
8. Financial meltdowns
9. In the Church, things will shake as well.

C. Whether or not we become the solution to, or offer the answers to, the coming crises, and even how we survive the shaking ourselves, will be determined by two things:

1. Whether or not we, the Church, shift into a true understanding of the Kingdom of God and our role in it - It's only the Kingdom that isn't shaken.
2. Whether or not we come into a true understanding of what the church, the Ekklesia, really is as a part of the Kingdom of God, and begin functioning as such.
3. *Everything rises and falls, lives or dies right here.*
 - a. I want to set the bar high.
 - b. I am not cynical (someone who is critical of the motives of another/others)
 - c. I am not a pessimist (one who expects the worst)
 - d. I am not anti-church
 - e. I am not pitting the Church against the Kingdom or vice-versa.
 - f. I am unhappy, frustrated, perhaps even against, what the church of America has evolved into.

D. Again, understanding the difference between the two and how they relate is paramount. We have prioritized church over Kingdom, but the scriptures do not.

E. General statements to think about:

1. Christ/the scriptures didn't say the church is unshakable.
2. Christ/the scriptures didn't say the church is ever-increasing.
3. Christ/the scriptures didn't say He gave us the keys to the church.
4. Christ/the scriptures didn't say preach "the gospel of the church."
5. Christ/the scriptures didn't say signs and wonders would follow the gospel of "the church."
6. Christ/the scriptures never told us to build the church (or "a" church).
7. Christ/the scriptures never said to seek first the church.
8. Christ/the scriptures never said to ask for the church to come and its will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

The Darkening Storm; Kingdom Rising

by Dennis Peacocke

I. What is the center of crisis facing the world?

- A. A “values” war in a “flat world.”
1. The world is “flat” (technology, inter-connected economy, communication systems), therefore there are no national or regional containment barriers.
 2. The primary “values” war centers on the nature of reality (“worldview”).
 - a. Is truth objective or subjective?
 - b. Are all values relative?
 - c. What is the relationship between religion and secular culture and government?
 - d. What are the causes and “cures” of economic disparities between the rich and poor?
 - e. Why did western culture develop the dominating structures of capitalism and democracy and should they continue to dominate the world?
 - f. What is the nature of the battle between nationalism and global unity?
 - g. What is the balance between local communities or state-regions and national central governments?
 - h. *What is the proper role of Christianity in the economic-political realm (Kingdom vs. dispensationalism)?*
- B. An economic crisis of globally inter-connectedness
1. The U.S. debt problem (14 trillion and rising)
 - a. Who will pay the debt: which nations and which generations? (Mal. 4:4-6)
 - b. Who will support the bankrupt nations (Greece, Eastern Europe, etc.)?
 - c. What is the role of the Asian nations, especially China?
 2. Where will the resource-ideological alliances go?
 - a. Over energy (oil, mineral, water)
 - b. Over historic alliances

II. What will the general shape of this crisis look like?

- A. It will be a three-phased cycling, spiraling downward
1. **Phase One** will be centered in denial, anger, blame, left-right stagnation, false interpretation, mixed-preparations on every level
 2. **Phase Two** will be the “bridge-period of potential chaos, power shifts to localism; the emergence of police-states, political reformation and alliances.
 3. **Phase Three** will be defined by whoever convinces the United States to reconfigure and reunite, and whatever other global alliances have emerged.

4. Our real question as Christians is, "What will the 'prevailing-power' church look like, and how will the Kingdom of God advance in this trek toward Matthew 13?" (harvest, leaven, value, a mixed "full net" of believers and believer-nations [Matthew 25])

III. The Church faces its greatest crisis and greatest opportunity in at least five hundred years.

- A. What is the role of the church in culture?
 - 1. What is, "breathing in and breathing out?"
 - 2. Do we really believe the cross changed the world as well as our personal futures?
- B. What will the "bridge phase" look like, and how should we position ourselves for it?
 - 1. Personally
 - 2. Our families
 - 3. Our churches
 - 4. Our communities
 - 5. Our nations
- C. Will the church leaders have a significant role in shaping the process and the future?
 - 1. Do we believe we should?
 - 2. Who will do it?
 - 3. How will they do it?
 - 4. Who will follow those who try ("critical mass")?
 - 5. How do we respond to the current and emerging political parties?
 - 6. What does it look like to, "disciple the nations" (Matthew 28:18-20), and how do we handle the public relations in a context of pluralistic secularism?

Voices Crying in the Wilderness

by Dutch Sheets

I. Definitions

A. The Kingdom of God is the domain or rule of God. His realm. The Kingdom of God on earth still would technically include everything, but at this point in time is realized/manifested/expressed practically through the hearts and lives of those who have submitted to His kingdom rule.

B. The church – Ekklesia – Matt 16 – More than a saved group of people.

Greeks – “legislature” of the Greek Kingdom

Romans – “legislature” to make like Rome in Roman kingdom.

1. By its very definition it is a governing body.
2. By its very definition it is a discipling body.
3. By its very definition it is an invading force.
4. By its very definition it is a culture changing force.

Awakening – Mark 16

Reformation – Matt 28

➤ (Discipling nations/ The great commission)

5. By its definition:
 - a. Your congregation is not “a” church.
 - b. You can’t “have/do” church
 - c. You can “build” a church.
 - d. You can’t “attend” one (you can gather “as a part of”)
 - e. The “local church” is the local ekklesia (BOC)
 - f. There is no such thing as a “para-church”

C. Ekklesia – Ek-Klesis (calling) – “called out”

1. A called people (2 Timothy 1:9); called out... of what?
 - a. The Kingdom-dominion – domain of Satan/darkness, but also called into something/to something: the Kingdom of God. Now learn that culture, and specifically for your mountain/assignment/calling/ministry. Then as a part of that new Kingdom be sent back into that other World (Roman Ekklesia) to invade and change it until it looks like His Kingdom culture (Heaven) = Ekklesia.
 - b. If you know you’re called to do that – that you’re called to be the church-ekklesia out there, then He’ll empower you to be the church out there, releasing the power and authority of His Kingdom.
 - c. Since we’ve made the church a sheep pen, a place to hang out and a place to get our spiritual needs met, we don’t have much authority from our King. Sheep don’t need authority – government leaders and officers in an army do.

2. If I was Satan, I'd define/call the ekklesia the family of God (we are also that).
3. If I was Satan, I'd define/call ekklesia the body of Christ.
4. If I was Satan, I'd define/call ekklesia the place (we do congregate) where they meet.
5. Just don't let them know they're an ekklesia of his Kingdom! Because then He won't have a force through whom to extend his Kingdom culture into mine.

II. Misdefining the Church/the Ekklesia and its relationship to the Kingdom of God has done the following in America:

A. Produced a narcissistic church. Self-love, self centered. Narcissus – (Daffodil) – so beautiful he stared at his reflection in a pool until he died. The gods turned him into a narcissus (daffodil). It has no fragrance.

1. No wonder we've been so susceptible to humanism (man is god-centered); relativism.
2. We've preached a humanistic (man-centered) gospel, and now have a humanistic church. This has made us anemic beyond our wildest dreams.
3. If a representative/an instrument/voice of rule/government becomes something that exists for the preservation and pleasing of itself (like D.C.), it becomes counter-productive.
4. Eventually a cancer, a tapeworm, starts eating itself from within. Satan is allowing us to destroy ourselves through our beliefs and paradigms. We are a part of the problem, not the solution.
5. The shift from humanistic and narcissistic thinking in the church is going to be much more difficult than we can imagine because a generation of Christians in America have been indoctrinated by it. Almost all of us have been affected by it.
6. **Should be:** *laying life down; daily cross; seek first the Kingdom...*

B. Since this pervades the leaders also, it has exalted the part(s) above the whole, and created a "mine vs. ours (or better yet, "His"), and an "I vs. we" mindset.

1. We have many "churches" or "congregations" instead of many expressions of one ekklesia, one tribe, one nation, one body.
2. As long as I'm building "mine," I can't build "His."
3. It is O.K. to break the ekklesia into functional units, families, just like an army. The U.S. Army has many divisions, units but there is only one Army.
4. For the most part, we don't consciously think of ourselves as a part of the church ekklesia of our city/region; we think of success, etc., based only on "ours."
5. **Should be:** *His/Ours/We.*

C. This has produced independent, competitive mind sets in the church – Body of Christ.

1. Transfer growth
2. Fast growth
3. Self Destructive Growth

4. Rather than asking “how can we work together to impact our region?”, we work independently to grow ourselves.
 5. **Should be:** *“How do we, the ekklesia release His Kingdom rule into our city/region?”*
- D. This has misdefined success as, “the growth of my congregation” (what I’m doing vs. the extension of the Kingdom of God into my region).
1. But he who would be great in His Kingdom becomes the servant of all.
 2. Technically, the only way to grow the church is to get someone saved and mature them.
 3. **Should be:** *How is the ekklesia in my city-region doing at extending His Kingdom rule here?*
- E. This has produced a consumer-oriented and customer based approach toward our members. Results?:
1. Caused: Take, Consume vs. Give, Produce, Steward, Supply.
 2. Welfare mentality vs. Ownership.
 3. It takes slick ad campaigns to draw consumers – customers. And that’s what happens in churches.
 4. **Should be:** *As a member of the ekklesia and a subject of His Kingdom, how can I help the cause?*
- F. This has produced a “my rights,” entitlement mentality vs. a “submission to authority” and “sacrifice for the cause mentality.”
1. **Should be:** *bond slave*
- G. All of this has shaped/structured our gatherings.; how can “my church” grow?
1. Even our worship is for us, not Him.
 2. What pleases the sheep?
 3. Only the church once/twice a week.
 4. **Should be:** *What does He want to do? How would He like us to govern today?*
- H. This has altered our message.
1. A false gospel of “the church.”
 2. No commitment needed.
 3. Short
 4. Shallow
 5. Innovative teaching; no sound doctrine.
 6. Whatever it takes to please the sheep.
 7. Produced hearers, not doers, converts to disciples.
 8. **Should be:** *Sound doctrine; Gospel of the Kingdom; Training in righteousness, truth, War – a Biblical worldview.*
- I. This has redefined our mission.
1. Meet needs

2. Tend sheep
3. Teach
4. Not disciple – train individuals and nations.
5. **Should be:** *As the ekklesia of the Kingdom, our job is to make this realm of the Kingdom look like Heaven.*

J. This has exalted the pastor gift/position above all others and the needs of the sheep above the Shepherd (Christ)

1. Obvious why: needs of sheep are what matters most.
2. He/she exists for them (not Him).
3. Even the Chief/Great Shepherd exists for them.
4. (Actually, He'll let them die for Him – His Kingdom).
5. He is Shepherd, not King and Lord.
6. **Should be:** *Apostle first. His will!*

K. This has produced flocks, not an army. Fellowship is not a government.

1. A place to be fed, cared for.
2. A place for fellowship, to have fun, to relate.
3. But sheep/flocks don't fight; don't have weapons.
4. Governments do; armies do.
5. A sheep mentality won't survive the coming storm!
6. Sheep don't need or have authority; soldiers and legislators do.
7. Congregations don't. Fellowship don't.
8. Ekklesias do.
9. No wonder we walk in so little authority.
10. **Should be:** *A training center. A congress, not just a congregation.*

L. This has shifted us from dominion to survival; occupation to existence; confrontation to conformity.

1. We conform to culture vs. shaping it.
2. Ekklesia concept is the restoration of the dominion mandate of Genesis 1.
3. Rule is what Kings and Kingdoms do,
4. If we don't function as the ekklesia, the Kingdom of God has no governing force/influence on the earth. Can't come to earth.
5. Matthew 16 cannot happen.
6. Matthew 28 cannot happen.
7. Our definition of the church/local church has produced passive sheep, not an active government.
8. **Should be:** *we reign in life – Rom 5:17*

M. All of this has caused us to even define our leaders in roles for the sheep, not as a part of the ekklesia, serving the King and His Kingdom.

1. They're supposed to be extensions of the King and His Kingdom:
 - a. Officers in His army.
 - b. Leaders in His government
 - c. Trainers so His ekklesia can function properly and be properly equipped.
2. This error has produced:
 - a. Lazy sheep
 - b. Ill-equipped army
3. Teachers teach, but don't train and equip.
4. Prophets exhort, comfort and edify, but don't speak correction and warnings.
5. They build and plant, but don't pluck-up, tear-down and overthrow.
6. Even Apostles are sheep centered and self centered
7. ***Should be: Generals of the Kingdom on Earth.***

N. Many think, for the most part, they're to pastor pastors, or plant (unbiblical) "churches" and raise up (unscriptural) pastors and sheep-centered congregations. *They're supposed to:*

1. Govern in the ekklesia
2. Coordinate – Align – Katartizo the saints and the other 4 ascension gifts.
3. Lead the ekklesia in extending the Kingdom of God to earth.

III. Conclusion:

- A. The good news and the bad news rolled into one is that God is going to deal with this.
- B. *Don't ask to be excused.*

The Battle for Our Cities

by Adam Peacocke

This *pivotal moment* is a great opportunity for a Kingdom reformation to take place.

Nehemiah 2:18 — *And I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me, and also about the king's words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let us arise and build." So they put their hands to the good work. [NAS]*

God is looking for people who will “rise up and build.”

Reformation is a battleground because the *form* determines the *filling*.

Our cities are center stage in the battle for a truly Kingdom reformation.

Here are some of the front lines of this battle...

- Leadership
- Economic Policy
- The ethic behind service and volunteerism
- Generational thinking
- Alignment with historic design

3 essential components for us to win this battle (qualities – not strategies or tactics)

1) Participation ➔ We must see this as *our* battle & *engage* it.

Matthew 13:33 — *He spoke another parable to them, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened." [NASU]*

2) Perseverance ➔ Transformation is a *being* process. [Picture – Boiling Water]

Romans 8:20-25 — *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who*

subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. [NKJV]

3) Presence → The reforming process must be energized by the refilling process

Acts 2:1-3 — *When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. [NASU]*

The battle has come home, which means that we have home field advantage.

Nehemiah 4:11-14 — *Our enemies said, "They will not know or see until we come among them, kill them and put a stop to the work." 12 When the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times, "They will come up against us from every place where you may turn," 13 then I stationed men in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, the exposed places, and I stationed the people in families with their swords, spears and bows. 14 When I saw their fear, I rose and spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people: "Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your houses." [NASU]*

The Financial Crisis: Greed & Secular Worldview

by Gerald R. Chester, Ph.D.

Using a scale of 1 to 10 (1 is low and 10 is high), rate how true these statements are of you:

1. Money drives me to excel. _____
 2. The best way back to economic prosperity is through consumption. _____
 3. Sometimes you have to compromise principles to make money. _____
 4. I am more than thrifty, I am always looking for deals. _____
 5. When I change jobs, money is the major consideration. _____
 6. I don't pay for anything that I can get for free. _____
 7. When investing, historical results are very important. _____
 8. More money will solve most, if not all, of my problems. _____
 9. The Bible teaches us about spiritual matters not financial matters. _____
 10. I can't wait until I retire. _____
- Total** _____

Signs of the Financial Crisis	
Money (greed) drives everything (defines significance and success)	Foreclosures (record levels)
Hedonism (personal comfort, entertainment, and pleasure) ←	Bankruptcies (up 32%)
Litigious society (USA highest lawyers per capita)	Low interest rates (failing to stimulate economic growth)
Marriage is no longer a covenant (sin embraced by the culture)	Inflation risk (rising prices) ←
Cohabitation (sin embraced by the culture)	Socialization - largess risk (entitlement mentality)
Abortion (sin embraced by the culture)	Massive public debt (>\$12T) ←
Homosexuality in the open (sin embraced by the culture)	Currency risk (lack of confidence in the US \$)
Fiat monetary system (weak dollar – low level of confidence in USA)	Energy dependence (~25% of energy is imported)
High unemployment (maybe nearing levels of Great Depression)	Trade imbalance (globally non-competitive manufacturing)

Is Greed Good?

"Greed is right, greed works. Greed clarifies, cuts through, and captures the essence of the evolutionary spirit. Greed, in all of its forms; greed for life, for money, for love, knowledge has marked the upward surge of mankind. "

Gordon Gekko, *Wall Street*, 1987

In the 1999 ABC News Special: Greed with John Stossel, Greed is defined as the motive behind people who produce the products that we enjoy.

"In a free market, you get more for yourself by serving your fellow man," said economist Walter Williams. "You don't have to care about him, just serve him. Greed gets people to cooperate. If you want to benefit from other greedy people, you have to make sure they benefit from you."

Source: http://digg.com/political_opinion/Greed_Is_Good_Yes_It_drives_us_to_do_many_good_things_in_the_marketplace

Secular Definition

In the popular understanding of greed, the assumption is that greed drives us to excel and work hard. It presupposes that accumulating wealth is good and that the best way to help people is to create jobs.

The dictionary definition of greed is: "a selfish and excessive desire for more of something than is needed" (Source: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Greed>)

Another definition is: "excessive or rapacious (taking by force, plundering) desire, esp. for wealth or possessions." (Source: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/greed>)

Using the secular definitions, greed doesn't sound very good.

But the secular view of reality tries to avoid facing the issue.

Naturalism and Deism

The acceptance of "greed is good" is a sign of secular thinking such as naturalism and deism which dominate the business world.

Greed is viewed as mostly good and the bad consequences just have to be managed.

In November 2009, Warren Buffett and Bill Gates conducted a town-hall style meeting at Columbia University's business school.

They presented a naturalistic or deistic view of future economic prosperity with little discussion about the signs of the times. In their discussion, greed was largely dismissed as a cause for the financial calamity. Instead, Buffett and Gates presented a positive outlook based on their past successes.

Naturalism and deism lead us to make decisions based solely on what we see in the natural:

"Jobless claims are down." "Durable goods orders are up." "Ford earns first annual profit in four years." "Toyota recall spreads to Europe and China." "Economy grows at fastest pace since 2003." "What if consumer demand is dead."

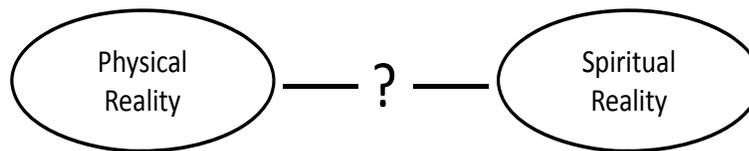
Naturalism and deism do not consider spiritual reality and therefore do not seek to understand root issues.

Naturalism and Deism

Naturalism and deism see the outward appearance – the symptoms – not the underlying reality

He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance (prosopon: face => outward circumstances) of the sky, but you cannot interpret (dunamai: power) the signs (semeion: a distinguishing sign or mark) of the times (kairos: a limited period of time, opportune time). Matthew 16:2-3 [NIV]

One of the greatest questions must be: is God engaged in His creation?



Is God Engaged?

If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God: You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock -- the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven. The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you. Deuteronomy 28:1-8 [NIV]

I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things. Isaiah 45:7 [NIV]

Spiritual reality and physical reality are connected, because *"In the beginning God . . ."* Genesis 1:1

Biblical Maxims:

Obedient leads to economic and political blessings. (see above)

Disobedience leads to economic and political calamity (see Deuteronomy 28:15ff).

Biblical Definition

Biblical words translated greed or greedy:

Pleonexia: greedy desire to have more, covetousness, avarice
(Mark 7:22; Luke 12:15; Romans 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:10,11; 6:10; Ephesians 5:3,5; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 2:5; II Peter 2:3, 14)

Harpage: the act of plundering, robbery (Mat 23:25; Luke 11:39)

Aischrokerdos: eagerness for base gain (1 Peter 5:2)

The concept of greed in the NT is similar to the secular definition: the excessive focus on the accumulation, consumption, and retention of money to the exclusion of virtually everything else.

But is there a sense in which greed is good, that is, does it align with the character and nature of God?

Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments." Matthew 19:16-17 [NIV]

Greed Is Not Good

Principle of God's Universe: You cannot worship God and money

"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." Luke 16:13 [NIV]

Principle of God's Universe: Greed is idolatry

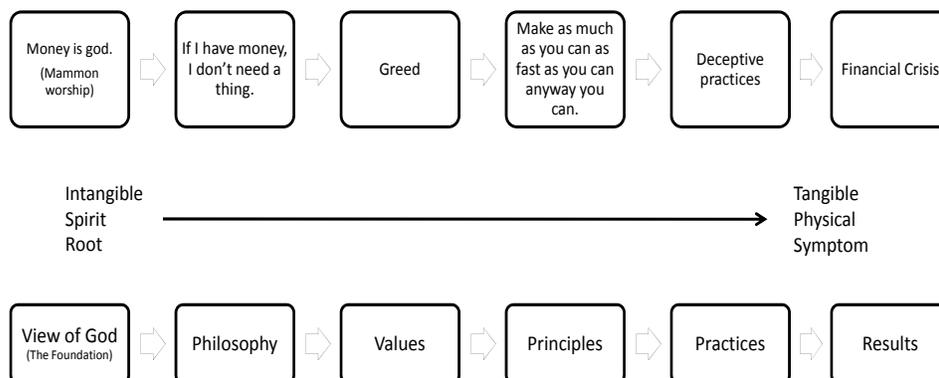
Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Colossians 3:5 [NIV]

Principle of God's Universe: Idolatry (the worship of money) leads to deception

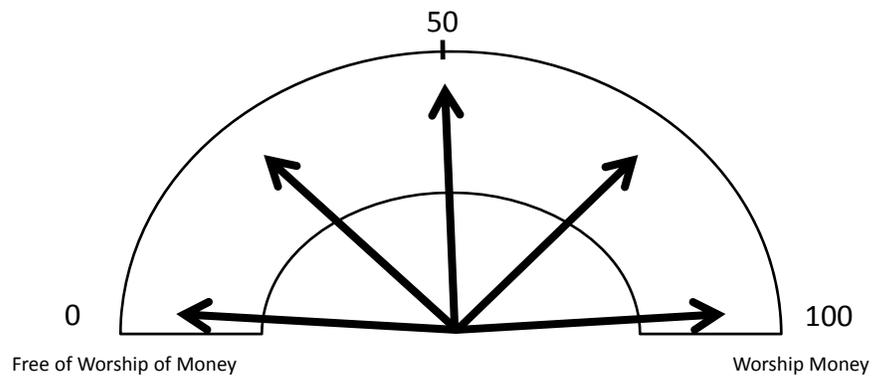
You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that

Revelation 3:17 [NIV]

Greed Is A Symptom



Greedometer



What was your score from the exercise?

Using a scale of 1 to 10 (1 is low and 10 is high), rate how true these statements are of you:

- 1. Money drives me to excel. _____
 - 2. The best way back to economic prosperity is through consumption. _____
 - 3. Sometimes you have to compromise principles to make money. _____
 - 4. I am more than thrifty, I am always looking for deals. _____
 - 5. When I change jobs, money is the major consideration. _____
 - 6. I don't pay for anything that I can get for free. _____
 - 7. When investing, historical results are very important. _____
 - 8. More money will solve most, if not all, of my problems. _____
 - 9. The Bible teaches us about spiritual matters not financial matters. _____
 - 10. I can't wait until I retire. _____
- Total** _____

Take Away

A secular worldview leads to naturalism. The theistic version of naturalism is deism.

Many, if not most professing, Christians function like deists relative to economic matters.

Only a biblical worldview recognizes that the sin of greed is idolatry.

Spiritual reality drives physical reality, which is the biblical view.

To properly understand and respond to the financial crisis requires a biblical worldview.

Entitlements & Social Realities

by Ron Coverson, MBA

I. The Source of the Good Life and its Discontents

- A. What is real Prosperity?
 - 1. The nature of True Wealth
- B. The corruption of truth: An introduction to social realities
 - 1. The Myth of Entitlements
 - 2. Political Correctness and its Allies
 - 3. Should we feed and clothe the world?

II. The Heavenly idea of Self Government and its Detractors.

- A. A brief history of Government and Society in a democratic context
- B. The difference between rights and responsibilities
- C. Empowerment: A heavenly idea that's time has come.

III. White Guilt and the relationship to entitlements and social responsibility

IV. The Cure: A Kingdom Perspective on the role of the Church in the midst of the welfare state.

- A. God in the Wasteland: A biblical alternative
- B. Kingdom realities and its detractors
- C. How to get into the public conversation and plant your flag.

V. An opportunity for real transformation awaits

- A. Getting ready to participate in real Hope and Change
- B. A few necessary steps
- C. A final thought

Fear, Faith & Preparation

by Dennis Peacocke

I. What did you hear being said by God in this conference?

- A. To the church?
- B. To the world?
- C. To you personally?

II. What are the “faith” issues facing us?

- A. As a church?
- B. As a nation?
- C. As a person?

III. What should we be afraid of?

- A. Personally?
- B. As believers?
- C. As a nation?

IV. What are you going to do to prepare for the future?

- A. Personally?
- B. In your family?
- C. In your church?
- D. In your community?
- E. In your job/business?
- F. In your nation?



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