

The Freedom Series

*Dennis
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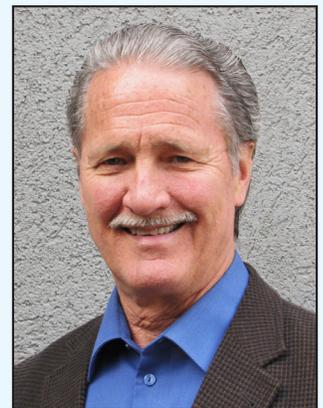
GoStrategic (Formerly Strategic Christian Services)

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.





Fellow Rebuilder,

Welcome to *The Freedom Series*. We trust that you are one who genuinely wants to help change this world, for this study is designed for men and women of such aspiration and destiny. Those who see our current situation clearly are, most frequently, those who feel compelled to help recover what is rapidly draining away: freedom and the possibility of freedom for our children. This study series is designed to serve you by providing a clearer understanding of God's purposes so that your actions in His service will be effective.

Freedom (economic well-being and political freedom in general) is a concept and life-style impossible to achieve outside of a culture shaped by Christianity. As one who has studied the history of ideas for over thirty-five years, I continue to marvel at the all-encompassing breadth of Christ's truths, premised as they are upon a few profound concepts. "The Freedom Series" will make these basic building blocks of truth all the more obvious to you.

I personally want to urge you as a business professional, teacher, pastor, or world-changer of any trade or ministry, to prayerfully consider joining with us as we utilize these materials to:

- Start a grass-roots re-education movement in our communities which explains to our citizens why the free enterprise system must be recovered (economic evangelism).
- Call for the mobilization of the private sector's resources to solve community problems (City Action Councils)

Come, dig down with us to the foundation stones. Then, equipped and armed with truth, conviction, and a plan, let us rise up and build!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis T. Peacocke".

Dennis T. Peacocke

CONTENTS

Bio 1
 Greeting 2
 Contents 3

SECTION ONE: CURRICULUM

1. MASTER PRINCIPLE ONE: God is building a family business
 “How to Eat the Elephant” 5
 2. MASTER PRINCIPLE TWO: God fellowships with man by giving us stewardship over His possessions
 “Called by God to Steward His Creation,” Part One..... 9
 3. MASTER PRINCIPLE THREE: Servant leaders produce proprietors
 “Called by God to Steward His Creation,” Part Two..... 11
 4. MASTER PRINCIPLE FOUR: Lasting wealth is built generationally through the wise
 stewardship of property
 “Private Property: Cornerstone of Freedom” 13
 5. MASTER PRINCIPLE FIVE: Strategic planning produces lasting wealth and increase
 “Understanding the Basic Laws of Wealth” 15
 6. MASTER PRINCIPLE SIX: God pays for what He orders
 “The Nature of Money and Mammon” 19
 7. MASTER PRINCIPLE SEVEN: The possibility for failure is essential to human growth
 “The Free Market vs. Bureaucracy: Causes and Cures” 23
 8. MASTER PRINCIPLE EIGHT: Spiritual law undergirds and governs the material creation
 “The Economic Consequences of Disobedience” 27
 9. MASTER PRINCIPLE NINE: Only Christianity can produce economic prosperity and justice
 “How Christians in the Private Sector Can Help Change the Nations” 29

SECTION TWO: RESOURCE MATERIALS

Five Foundations of Rebuilding 31
 Recommended Reading 32
 Bible Verses Related to Economics 33

CHAPTER
ONE

HOW TO EAT THE ELEPHANT

Master Principle #1:

God is building a family business.

Premise:

"A wise man attacks the city of the mighty and pulls down the stronghold in which they trust" (Prov. 21:22).

Idols of the city to pull down:

- ❖ Christianity is not responsible for the leadership or care of the earth or its people.
- ❖ Christianity is unable to offer solutions to man's problems.

The truth:

- ❖ The earth is the Lord's and therefore His peoples' stewardship. (Ps. 24:1)
- ❖ God's Word, properly applied, brings God's order.
- ❖ Bad government produces confusion, dependency, and poverty, whereas godly government produces order, initiative, and productivity.
- ❖ Bad government in our culture has produced elephantine problems and the rebuilders are going to have to "eat" those problems carefully and systematically.

I. Coming into the Family Business (Why We're "in the Swamp")

A. Being "saved" means joining the enterprise of "Almighty & Sons."

1. Jesus is the pattern (Luke 2:49): "I must be about Father's business."
2. If you are in Christ, you are called to co-manage with Him (Rom. 8:17; Matt. 24:43-47).

B. The family business has an evil, unrelenting competitor (Satan) whose goal is to enslave and impoverish God's creation (God is the property owner).

1. There is a war between family seeds (Gen. 3:15).
2. There is a war for men's minds and social order (John 8:32; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; 2 Cor. 4:4; John 18:33). Islam, Marxism, liberalism vs. "airheadism"
3. The rebuilders' movement is a strategy for inward regeneration that leads to outward change (principles of rebuilding).
 - a. Inside to outside
 - b. Local to national to international (bottom up)
 - c. Wholism vs. dualism ("The meek shall inherit the earth" not harps.)
 - d. Stewardship/servant leadership vs. "taking over"

II. Faith or Failure?

- A. Is Christianity a “good losers” organization?
 - 1. The issue of the day: Who is in power, Christ or Satan?
 - 2. What does the Word say? (Matt. 28:18-20; Col. 1:18-21, 2:10-15; Acts 2:21)
- B. Preparing for the future by caring for the workshop (earth)
 - 1. We recognize the principle that power is guarded by problems.
 - a. The Promised Land was guarded by giants, wild animals, and walled cities.
 - b. Problems come from ignorance or disobedience (yours or someone else’s).
 - 2. We recognize the fact that our workshop time on earth is to “tutor” us (Gal. 3:28-4:6; Luke 19:13).
 - 3. We recognize the principle of growing faithfulness (Luke 16:10-12; Rev. 2:26).

III. How We Plan to Eat the Elephant (Num. 14:9)

- A. The five foundations of rebuilding (Ps. 24:1)
 - 1. Freedom begins in self-government under God.
 - 2. The family unit is the basic building block of a healthy society.
 - 3. The local church is the primary equipping center for effective Christian service.
 - 4. The stewardship of private property is essential to personal and societal maturity.
 - 5. Rebuilding a nation begins with rebuilding local communities.
- B. Wars are won with ideas (truth) not bullets.
 - 1. De-programming from lies.
 - 2. Truth brings faith, and faith brings responsibility.
- C. Motivation begins at home (localism).
 - 1. Fighting for our families (Neh. 4:13-14)
 - 2. Building through the ekklesia in the city
- D. Cooperation comes through common challenge.
 - 1. Unfortunately, conflict with a common adversary produces unity more readily than peace does.
 - 2. We are looking for joint cooperation through City Action Councils.
- E. Government must be correctly understood and rebuilt (Isa. 9:7): Godly government leads to peace.
 - 1. We must approach government and tyranny through an understanding of the five jurisdictions.
 - 2. We must undercut centralism and tyranny by jurisdictional problem-solving (managers are problem solvers).
- F. We must focus on rebuilding the private sector of the business community.

1. Society and individuals give enormous attention to their wealth and provisions: the heart-wallet relationship (Matt. 6:21).
 2. The public sector is going to be significantly defunded as God judges the world system, putting great pressure on the private sector.
- G. ACTION PLAN: we have a plan for grass roots evangelism and mobilization of the business community through THE FREEDOM SERIES (Dt. 8:18).
1. Summary of teachings:
 - a. "Called by God to Steward His Creation, Part One"
 - b. "Called by God to Steward His Creation, Part Two"
 - c. "Private Property: Cornerstone of Freedom"
 - d. "Understanding the Basic Laws of Wealth"
 - e. "The Nature of Money and Mammon"
 - f. "The Free Market vs. Bureaucracy: Causes and Cures"
 - g. "The Economic Consequences of Disobedience"
 - h. "How Christians in the Private Sector Can Help Change the Nations."

CHAPTER
TWO

CALLED BY GOD TO STEWARD HIS CREATION: Part One

Master Principle #2:

God fellowships with man by giving us stewardship over His possessions.

Idols of the city to pull down:

- Ы Dealing with religious deception (Matt. 15:6).
- Ы Christians are not empowered until they die.
- Ы Work is a curse.

The truth:

- Ы God wants to share His power with us now and prepare us for fellowship with Him and for increasing responsibility in the family business.
- Ы Power sharing comes through incremental problem solving, not death.
- Ы Work is a holy, everlasting calling.

I. The Principle: Fellowship through Building Together

- A. God brings His servants to maturity by making them His work partners (Gen. 1:26-28).
 1. Unity comes from sharing goals, responsibility, and time.
 2. God's original intent for man has not changed (fellowship through building together). Sin did not catch God "sleeping" or alter His plans. God is a strategic thinker (Acts 2:23; Rev. 13:8, 17:8).
 3. Strategic thinking comes with maturity (teleology: the study of motives and goals).
 - a. Thinking from the end back to the beginning
 - b. Resource management planning (procurement, allocation, deployment)
 - c. Holding to your game plan under pressure. (Complexity is impossible without well-executed basics, e.g., "flying kicks.")
- B. "Power" is sharing the knowledge, ability, and authority with God over some portion of His creation.
 1. God's destiny (Eph. 1:18-23) is to expand His Kingdom through His family business.
 2. The training program for this expansion begins here on earth (Gen. 1:26-28; Matt. 11:28-30; Luke 19:13; Rom. 8:17; Mark 10:29-30)
 3. Power is guarded by problems.
 - a. The tragedy of premature promotion or inheritance (The Prodigal Son; Luke 15:11-32).
 - b. Problems should draw courage, creativity, dependency, knowledge, patience, tenacity, team work (i.e., "character") out of us.

- c. Problems cleanse us from selfish ambition, presumption, and ignorance.
- d. Power should be delegated in proportion to problem-solving abilities.
- e. The Church will be cleansed (Eph. 5:26) by problem solving.
- f. Power is not given through the experience of “events,” i.e., eating of the tree of knowledge (Gen. 3:3-5) or through death, but rather as a consequence of incremental stewardship during life! (Rev. 2:26; Matt. 24:46-47; Luke 12:44; Rev. 19:16).

II. Work Is a Holy, Eternal Calling.

- A. God first reveals Himself as Creator, Worker, and Entrepreneur
 - 1. Work preceded sin and the Fall.
 - 2. Jesus taught that work is eternal (John 5:17, 19, 20).
- B. God is a Work Assigner, Replicator of Himself, Pattern Builder (vs. evolution), Rester, and Guardian of His creation (Gen. 1).
- C. The promise of a “work free” heaven is a heresy.
 - 1. “Heaven is the ultimate weekend” vs. co-laboring with God (Eph. 2:10).
 - 2. This heresy reveals our anti-work ethic. We are designed to put our lives into our work (excellence).
 - 3. The heresy makes work (business) “carnal” and “second class.” The deception of dualism (“good spirit” vs. “evil matter”) is designed to foil God’s maturity plan for His children and keep the earth under God’s enemies’ control.
 - 4. What God dislikes is not work but “un-hired men” (Matt 20:1-15).
- D. God has called us to work with Him in building character, skills, and relationships that will pass on to the next age.
 - 1. Obedient work (commissioned and approved by God) will transcend death (1 Cor. 3:9-15).
 - 2. Possessions do not pass through death; character and skills do (Matt. 6:19-20).
 - a. Godly motives
 - b. Godly ethics
 - c. Proper recognition of spheres
 - d. Service orientation
 - e. Leadership skills
 - f. Stewardship skills
- E. A Christian’s vocation call may be different from his ecclesiastical call. Examples:
 - 1. The Apostle Paul
 - a. Vocation: tent making (Acts 18:3; 1 Thess. 2:9)
 - b. Ministry: apostolic work
 - 2. The Apostle Peter
 - a. United in one, i.e., “full time ecclesiastical work”

CHAPTER
THREE

CALLED BY GOD TO STEWARD HIS CREATION: Part Two

Master Principle #3:

Servant leaders produce proprietors

Idols of the city to pull down:

- ❖ Profit should be the primary goal of all businesses and business leaders.
- ❖ Capitalism is ethically inferior to socialism because it exploits people and things rather than caring for them (“utilitarianism” vs. “compassion”).

The truth:

- ❖ The primary goal of business should be the maturation of people in terms of creativity, stewardship, and proprietorial participation in their work.
- ❖ Neither “capitalism” nor “socialism” should be a Christian’s economic model. The believer’s economic model should be based on scripture, not worldly economic categorizations.

I. Servant Leadership and Proprietorship

A. Man is created in God’s image and likeness (Gen. 1:26-28) and is commissioned by God to steward His creation. Therefore, man’s goal must be to imitate the goals and purposes of his Creator. Everyone is a “businessman”; that is, called to be fruitful (John 15:12), and properly steward personal possession as God does His.

1. God’s goal, as seen in Session Two, is to bring us into fellowship with Himself by sharing the management of His creation with us.
2. Godly leadership, in business or elsewhere, has one primary serving goal: to draw others into their full potentiality in God (Luke 22:24-26).

B. God’s design for individuals, families, churches, businesses and nations must determine how wise leaders govern (Phil. 3:12; Acts 17:26) by helping them as closely as is possible into conformity with divine design.

1. Nothing that is out of order (operating contrary to) can be fulfilled or prosper in the long run.
2. The godly leader must diligently seek out God’s design for people and situations and steward them accordingly by bringing them as closely as is possible into conformity with divine design.
3. This leadership process involves identifying motivation, skills, goals, and hindrances to growth (sin) (Prov. 20:5—“The purposes of a man’s heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out.”)
4. God’s method of preparing us for co-ruling with Him (Gal. 3:24-4:8) is to school us by designed pressure and problems into skillful, productive managers of what He has entrusted to us (Luke 16:10-12).

- C. God's priorities: profit or a proprietorial spirit?
 - 1. Capitalism's primary goal is usually deemed to be profit.
 - 2. A person or enterprise can be "profitable" and yet be immoral, utilitarian, and totally out of God's will. Example: "rich" drug dealers (Ps. 37:1; 73:3).
 - 3. God has shown us by His own leadership example that leaders are called to draw people into a proprietorial spirit in order to maximize their maturity.
 - a. Ownership produces involvement: self-interest and "beulah," married to the land (Isa. 62:4).
 - b. Consider the differences between a proprietor and worker (the "work station" mentality vs. picking up papers that are on your floor).
 - c. The ability in people to produce increase is closely tied to developing self-worth (a leader's goal). Self-worth releases creativity and ability to risk.
 - d. Good leaders produce proprietors, and proprietors are creative, fulfilled, and fruitful.

II. Analyzing the World's Economic Ethics

- A. The accusations against capitalism
 - 1. It is profit-oriented, not people-oriented (utilitarian); i.e., it uses people.
 - 2. It alienates man from his labor by objectifying labor into segregated production functions that are menial and repetitive.
- B. The accusations against socialism.
 - 1. It sacrifices the virtues of personal reward for creative labor, risk, and stewardship on the altar of economic security.
 - 2. It encourages covetousness against those who succeed beyond the norm. ("I should have what you have.")
 - 3. It encourages envy. ("Why do you have more than I do?")
 - 4. It makes the prosperous "guilty" for their success.
 - 5. It promotes civil theft through taxation designed to make everyone equal.
 - 6. It destroys family inheritance through "leveling" taxation policies.
- C. What biblical principles motivate the rebuilders?
 - 1. Leadership that is servant-oriented.
 - 2. Economic relationships that encourage virtue and discourage indolence should be properly rewarded. Businesses that maximize the proprietorial spirit, creativity, and the maturation of the participants.

CHAPTER
FOUR

PRIVATE PROPERTY: CORNERSTONE OF FREEDOM

Master Principle #4:

Lasting wealth is built generationally through the wise stewardship of private property.

Idols of the city to pull down:

- ❖ Private property is a very limited right that is subject to the civil government.
- ❖ Because life is short, people should maximize their pleasure and profit.

The truth:

- ❖ Private property is essential to both personal and societal maturity.
- ❖ Private property belongs to those who lawfully own it.
- ❖ Wise stewardship over property operates generationally rather than short-run.

I. Private Property, Maturity, and Generational Transfer

A. Private property is essential to personal and societal maturity.

1. God owns all land (Ps. 24:1) which is why property tax is blasphemous. God has given it to nations (Acts 17:26) and families (Lev. 25, 27:24).
2. Man will be judged for his stewardship of God's possessions (all inclusive) beginning with the care of his body (1 Cor. 3:17).
3. Stewardship over that "property" entrusted to us forms an essential part of our training/evaluation/maturity program under God:
 - a. God is looking for "fruit" (increase in the long run) (John 15:16; Luke 19:11-21).
 - b. God entrusts us with caring for natural things before spiritual things (Luke 16:10-12).
 - c. God gives care over greater things based on our care of lesser things.
 - d. Jesus gives us a superb example of His concern for stewardship in John 17.
4. Since personal stewardship presupposes the personal management of property entrusted to you, values undercutting private property will produce immaturity and debt.
 - a. That which is owned by everybody is owned by nobody.
 - b. Examples:
 - Collectivized agriculture (Pilgrims, Africa)
 - The Brooklyn housing program
5. There is no biblical injunction for civil government owning land (Eminent Domain). Taxing the land leads to civil tyranny of all land use (1 Sam. 8:14).

B. Private property (wealth) and derived economic blessing is built on the family unit.

1. God's blessing plan for the nations (Jesus) is given to them from Father's family base. Blessing comes from obedient families (Gen. 12:3; 18:18-19; Acts 3:25).

2. Good family law, therefore, is good economic law, since society is made up of families.
3. In the long run, societal wealth can be predicted by a nation's law and trends of:
 - a. Divorce and illegitimacy
 - b. Abortion
 - c. Pornography consumption
 - d. Debt-equity corporate structures
 - e. Personal savings rate
 - f. Civic debt
 - g. Non-replenishable resource consumption
4. Lasting wealth is multi-generational and long-run rather than short-run, consumption-oriented.
 - a. God is the God of "Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" (three generational principle).
 - b. The "curse of poverty" is single generational wealth. (Selfishness vs. heritage: Mal. 4:4-6; parental savings: 2 Cor. 12:14)
 - c. Inheritance taxes and all anti-family practices produce poverty. (Matt. 5:45—God's laws are universal.)

Examples

Family-based wealth in Japan
 Amazon rain forests
 Divorce
 Debt
 Dividends vs. R&D, marketshare

Causes of Poverty

Sin
 Indolence
 Covenant breaking
 Disobedience
 Pagan worship

- d. People, companies, and nations must be generationally driven by investments not consumption/debt-driven. J. M. Keynes (our economic system's father) was not a family man.

II. Major Principles of Wise Stewardship Based on Generational Building

- A. Practicing and instilling the principle of stewardship over only what we currently have leads to increasing irresponsibility in the future. (Matt. 13:12—a twisted "Robin Hood" mentality: "steal from tomorrow to pay for today.")
 1. Wealth gained quickly is not kept (Prov. 21:20) because the skill base doesn't undergird it to steward it.
 2. Value is a function of the sacrifice given over time.
- B. Christ's last act before death was to arrange for the care of His family—Mary (John 19:26-27).
 1. Investing in relationships is the key to wealth since it promotes covenantal response (self-government) rather than short-run consumption.
 2. Godly families pass on the skills of stewardship as the primary guarantee of success (character skills) more than "things" or money.

CHAPTER
FIVEUNDERSTANDING THE BASIC LAWS OF
WEALTH**Master Principle #5:**

Strategic planning produces lasting wealth and increase.

Idols of the city to pull down:

- by Wealth is produced by hard work and the maximizing of personal power over people and resources.
- by Riches are a goal to be sought and they represent the best way to “keep score” in life.

The truth:

- by Riches can be produced by hard work and the misuse of power, but true wealth cannot.
- by Strategic planning, based on God’s goals and principles, produces increase and contentment.

I. The Nature of Wealth

- A. Wealth is the product of stewarding for God the gifts He has given you.
 1. “Riches” are primarily the material goods one can gain with or without obedience to God. Examples of “unrighteous mammon”:
 - a. Crime
 - b. Exploitation
 - c. Pure worldly motivation
 2. “Wealth” is primarily the skills, spiritual knowledge, and character developed in obeying God’s ways of approaching resource management.
 - a. Wealth will pass through death, but riches will not (1 Cor. 3:9-15; Matt. 6:19-20).
 - b. Our job is to put our heart into what is a treasure to God; i.e., the character attributes He desires (Matt. 6:21).
 3. Everyone is in the business because everyone has been given life and skills (wealth) from which God expects increase.
 4. God is looking for men and women who are good investors of His resources (God the investment banker).
 5. God is unfathomably wealthy, so poverty is no virtue. Jesus became poor for a reason (Phil. 2:1-12).
- B. There are five major areas of wealth stewardship:
 1. Relational peace with God
 - a. A biblical perspective on life
 - b. Freedom from debilitating sin and envy
 2. Relational wealth

- a. Your natural family
 - b. Your spiritual “yoke-partners” (Eph 4:11-16)
 - c. Friendship and community favor
 - d. Neutralized enemies (Ps 35:1; 55:9; 83)
3. Biblical revelation
- a. Functioning understanding of your destiny and place in God’s current work (skills, gifts, ministry).
 - b. Sustained spiritual growth
 - c. The wisdom to avoid presumption and stay within your sphere (Prov. 30:7-9; 2 Cor. 10:13-15).
4. Good health
- a. Time to fulfill your destiny
 - b. Redemptive use of physical strengths and weaknesses
5. Material contentment (1 Tim. 6:6-10)
- a. Sufficient material riches and wealth to carry out your calling and provide for your family (beginning with a 10% tithe investment in God’s work) and the ability to be generous toward the needy.

II. Basic Elements of Strategic Planning

- A. God matures His family to think and manage strategically as He does (see “Called by God to Steward His Creation, Part One”).
1. The Spirit’s admonition to Dennis Peacocke: “Relate to me as an investment banker”; i.e., manage your resources responsibly.
 2. Prosperity is a fruit of strategic planning and obedience, not a goal.
- B. Strategic Planning (as good investors) requires the following basic ingredients:
1. Future orientation based on three issues (generational thinking):
 - a. What God is doing generationally (the ability to hear the true prophets).
 - b. What is your calling and how it fits into God’s work (destiny).
 - c. The wealth and riches (resource base) God has given you to steward (accurate resource assessment).
 2. Your ability to promote self-government, proprietorship, and teamwork.
 3. Your ability to understand and invest time into resource assessment. (The material presented here was given in depth in the teaching series “Strategic Thinking” which is available through our offices.)
 - a. Revelational resources
 - b. Relational resources
 - c. Financial resources

- d. Communication resources
- e. Rulership (executive) resources
- C. Strategic thinkers become problem-solvers (how to approach problem-solving).
 - 1. Determine the root problem. How is it manifesting relationally, conceptually, and operationally?
 - 2. Define the jurisdictional problem: individual, familial, ecclesiastical, associational, civil.
 - a. If you can't write it down clearly you won't be able to understand or communicate it! (Hab 2:2)
 - b. The key to successful business planning: clearly written plans!
 - 3. How will we solve the problem?
 - 4. When will we solve the problem?
 - 5. How will we acquire the resources to solve the problem?

CHAPTER
SIX

THE NATURE OF MONEY AND MAMMON

Master Principle #6:

God pays for what He orders.

Idols of the city to pull down:

- Ы Money is the “bottom line” of all financial transactions.
- Ы Most problems are solved by acquiring more money.

The truth:

- Ы Money is time in foldable form.
- Ы Money is a means, not an end.

I. The Nature of Money and Mammon

A. Money is time in foldable form. Time is a commodity.

1. Money represents the amount of time invested in a person’s planning and labor to produce or acquire an object or organizational process. Examples:
 - a. An automobile: resources, assembly, distribution, service of investment.
 - b. United Way charity: time required to relationally build and maintain the organization
 - c. CPA or medical degree: deferred riches through study.
2. Since time is our most valuable earthly commodity, money must be viewed as a time function more than a “wealth function.”
 - a. Products or projects are produced as a direct corollary of the amount of money (time) available to spend on them. As a rule, the more on hand, the less time required to do a job.
 - b. Without time, money is useless.

B. The love of money (1 Tim. 6:10) is identified by the Apostle Paul as idolatry (Col. 3: 5)—a misplaced worship.

1. Biblical references to “mammon”: Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:9, 11, 13.
2. Mammon appeals to the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life (1 John 2:16).
3. Because greed is idolatry, it motivates the worshippers of mammon to look to money as “god”— the solution to all problems. Example: the civil government’s attempt to use money to heal most problems.
4. Families must be cleansed of generational sin from mammon worship, i.e., the lust for or misuse of money.

II. The Spiritual Power to Create Wealth

- A. Lasting wealth is created by obedience to God’s laws.
1. God gives man the power to create lasting wealth. (Deut. 8:18; 1 Cor. 3:7) Quick riches (money) cannot be kept (Prov. 20:21).
 - a. They may have been illegally acquired.
 - b. The skills to manage them are absent.
 2. Obedience is a significant component of wealth (Dt. 28).
 - a. God is after the building skills and character gained through good management.
 - b. Wealth follows skills: Take money away from the rich, and they will have it back in a generation!
 3. In the long run, poverty is caused by sin (ignorance or disobedience); therefore it cannot be eliminated by money. Examples:
 - a. Family sin: adultery, theft, exploitation, non-generational economic planning, sloth.
 - b. Stewardship sin: poor work ethic, neglect, debt, “get rich quick” schemes.

- B. Basic issues of wealth: aligning ourselves with God’s goals and principles.
1. God is interested in empowering people with His goals and skills and wants us to use our wealth to promote this also (Profit vs. servanthood) (Deut. 8:18).
 2. In the world system, we want a return on investment, whereas in the Kingdom we want to multiply stewardship, creativity, and relational skills.
 3. Those who manage organizations should have the same basic character requirement as biblical elders (1 Tim. 3; Titus 1).
 4. People should be employed according to their spiritual callings and gifts. (1 Cor. 12:14)
Examples:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Spiritual Calling</u>
CEO (executive function)	Apostolic functions
Personnel	Pastoral
Sales	Evangelistic
Strategic Planning	Prophetic
Administration	Government and helps
Systems	Teachers

5. Contrasts and laws
 - a. Faithfulness precedes lasting increase. (Matt. 13:12; Luke 16:10-12)
 - b. Build creative skills before you expect increase. (Prov. 22:29, 24:27)
 - c. Wealth should be a witness: excellence.
 - d. God pays for what He orders: obedience problems vs. money problems. Are we doing the following?
 - God’s will
 - God’s way

- God's timing
- With the right people and spirit
- With the skills and character being developed in the people



THE FREE MARKET VS. THE BUREAUCRACY: CAUSES AND CURES

Texts: Gal 6:7
Isa. 26:9
Prov. 3:5

Master Principle #7:

The possibility for failure is essential for human growth.

Idols of the city to pull down:

- ❖ Society is responsible to minimize the risks of personal failure for its citizens.
- ❖ Civil government can solve problems and handle power better than any other segment of society.

The truth:

- ❖ Risk and failure lead to the fear of God and teach people that decisions have consequences.
- ❖ Civil government is biblically not empowered to be society's ultimate problem-solver.

I. Risk, Failure, and the Necessity of Learning Consequences

A. The current situation: dependency vs. self-government

1. The world system (2 Cor. 4:4) encourages disobedience to God and His laws by attempting to provide cradle-to-grave security through the civil government, muffling and postponing the effects of disobedience on the people (both personal and national).
2. A truly free society encourages obedience to God, is compassionate to the truly needy and permits men to be freely blessed or penalized as a consequence of their choices.

B. Risk is essential for growth (Prov. 1:7: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.")

1. Without failure and consequence man would never learn not to "touch the hot stove."
2. Reward and penalty teach us God's laws and eventually His ways (limits).
3. Struggle and the possibility of failure develop moral strength and character.

Examples:

- a. Cutting the moth's cocoon may "kill it with kindness."
- b. The current problem of the post-Depression, Dr. Spock's "baby boomers."
4. Risk teaches us proper dependency on obedience vs. dependency on others who shield us from truth and consequences (Prov. 13:24).
 - a. We are to depend on God and obedience to Him and His laws not our "rights" and "entitlement."
 - b. We are to depend on God-ordained relationships: family, fellow believer, etc. not the "Mother State." Examples:
 - The consequences of family disintegration (no fault divorce): poverty, unemployment, latchkey kids, homelessness.
 - These problems produce civil maternalism.

- C. The five basic rights of free men and women to succeed or fail in a free society:
1. **FREE RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL EXPRESSION**
The right to press for a society built on covenant law with God vs. a civil order that shields its citizens from the consequences of sin and keeps them dependent on civil government.
 2. **FREE LABOR RELATIONSHIPS**
The right to hire or fire on the basis of a person's biblical character, technical skill and experience, free of bureaucratic intrusion.
 3. **FREE TITLE TO LAND**
The right to use one's land biblically, free of interference.
 4. **FREE CHILD REARING**
The right to educate one's children biblically, free of penalty.
 5. **FREE VOLUNTARY CHARITY**
The right to extend charity voluntarily, without being forced to do so through civil taxation policy.

II. Civil Government As Society's Ultimate "Problem Solver"

- A. Civil government, to avoid tyranny, is to function within its God-ordained jurisdiction.
1. God-ordained jurisdictional ordinances force the issue: there can be no free economic society without a Christian governmental base that recognizes jurisdictional rights and responsibilities.
 2. Problems cannot be solved apart from an integrated and service-based approach from the five jurisdictions.
 3. The civil government grows and assumes tyrannical authority in direct proportion to the de-Christianization of the culture.
 4. The City Action Council is built on the reality of problem solving premised upon the five basic freedoms of men.
- B. Anti-Christian civil government promises society "salvation through civil planning," but cannot deliver.
1. Authority is increasingly centralized in civil government (philosopher-planner vs. God).
 2. Case law and bureaucratic law replace constitutional law.
 3. Taxation increases (as does public debt) in an attempt to eliminate societal risk and increase civil dependency.
 4. Ownership of land ultimately reverts to the State.
 5. Control of educational standards reverts to the State.
 6. Ownership of production and trade reverts to the State.
 7. In exchange for man's freedoms, the State emphasizes the personal sexual rights of the citizens.
 8. The State then emphasizes short run, hedonistic "youth values" (value inversion) (Isa. 3:1-12).

- C. The Rebuilders movement believes problems are best solved:
1. By “pulling down strongholds” (2 Cor. 10:3-5) through prayer and active societal evangelism and education.
 2. By sorting through the five jurisdictions’ rights and responsibilities.
 3. Locally, by those involved in and knowledgeable about the problem!
 4. From the “inside-out” (regenerative self-government) (Luke 17:20-21).
 5. By service-oriented action.
 6. By changing public law when necessary.



THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE

Texts: Heb. 9:23-24
2 Cor. 4:18
Ex. 20:17

Master Principle #8:

Spiritual law undergirds and governs the material creation.

Idols of the city to pull down:

- Ы Poverty is something that victimizes people, i.e., “happens to them.”
- Ы Civil government is morally impelled to reduce inequalities of wealth among the people and is our only hope to do so.

The truth:

- Ы Poverty is primarily the consequence of spiritual disobedience.
- Ы Civil government is called to promote godly order and obedience, not economic equality.

I. Poverty and the Consequences of Spiritual Disobedience

- A. The material world is governed by spiritual laws.
 1. God the Creator has built His rules into His entire creation, visible and invisible (Heb. 9:23-24; 2 Cor. 4:18).
 2. So-called “laws of nature” are in fact ordered responses to the moral government God has built into His creation. Examples: laws of gravity, entropy, supply and demand, service and success. God is “active” through His created laws (Col. 1:17).
- B. Poverty is primarily the result of sin; that is, someone’s breaking of spiritual law, which manifests itself in the material world.
 1. God has built His universe as self-rewarding or self-punishing in terms of the rewards/penalties for obedience/disobedience to His order. You “reap” what “you sow” (Gal. 6:7) for good or ill.
 2. Economics (literally, “household management”), from a biblical point of view, can best be described as the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services.
 - a. Exploitation is the confiscation of a portion or all of one’s property or wages.
 - b. Justice (people receiving their due) and love (the promotion of your good at my expense) should govern Christian economics.
- C. Primary spiritual causes underlying poverty in the long run:
 1. **Fear**—
The inability to take risk because of the lack of trust in an ordered spiritual creation.
The absence of faith, fear of failure or conflict: causality and covenant vs. pagan confusion.
 2. **Greed**—
The driving spirit that demands reward beyond what is just and loving.
The theft, covetousness, or guilt over ill-gotten property, (presumption vs. service).

3. Laziness—

The lack of self-government which results in a failure to energetically and wisely apply skills, labor, and resources to God's mandate for man's dominion. (Gen. 1:26-28).

The mismanagement, escapism, Freudianism ("I am a victim"), welfare vs. problem solving, that leads to ignorance.

4. Idolatry—

The worship of false gods, values, or taking upon oneself the attributes of sovereignty reserved only for God. You become what you worship.

False religion, distorted values, rejection of limits (e.g., fiat money, managed inflation, debt) dualism (worship of the "spiritual").

5. Single Generation Consumption—

The selfish misuse of resources properly belonging to the next generation.

Malachi 4:4-6—short-run thinking, hatred of our posterity, abortion, adultery, divorce, etc.

II. The Civil Government and Its Policy of Dealing with "Economic Inequality"

A. Modern practices of legalized theft are prefaced upon the notion that, due to the differences in social wealth (caused by overt or tacit exploitation), civil government is morally responsible to equalize wealth through taxation or collectivization devices.

1. Civil government is called to promote godly obedience, not equalization of wealth.
2. Theories that say otherwise are built upon the presupposition that the philosopher-bureaucrat is to be as God, redesigning and leveling human differences in skills, efforts, faith, family traditions and the like.
3. While at the present time civil government is the most clearly "out-of-bounds" jurisdiction, it must be understood that any jurisdiction (or combination of jurisdictions) can (and historically have) become tyrannical; e.g.,

Anarchy—the tyranny of the individual;

Ecclesiocracy—the tyranny of the church;

Feudalism—the tyranny of the family.

B. The transfer of wealth from the private sector to the public sector (in an attempt to equalize wealth) is inherently self-defeating, since the public sector does not generate capital through innovation, risk return, efficiency or the stimulant of profit sharing (proprietorship).

1. Civil government tends towards parasitism.
2. Centralized government problem-solvers often do not see local needs clearly.

C. Civil government's wealth "redistribution" devices are inherently anti-family:

1. They create dependency upon civil government entitlements rather than strong family covenantal responsibilities, systematically undermining the family unit as God's blessing system (Gen. 12:3).
2. Civil government, through inheritance tax, penalizes generational transfer of covenant wealth.

CHAPTER
NINE

HOW CHRISTIANS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAN HELP CHANGE THE NATIONS

Master Principle #9:

Only Christianity can produce economic prosperity and justice through re-education, modeling, and the return of the “elders to the gates of the city.”

Idols of the city to pull down:

- ❖ Christian Principles are irrelevant and unrelated to real economic issues.
- ❖ “Scientific economics” has nothing to do with religious convictions or “spiritual laws” (the Bible is out of date).

The truth:

- ❖ Christianity totally undergirds any true economic justice, and the Christian faith alone can explain and guide economic behavior and action.

I. Man Cannot Successfully Restructure, Independent of the Creator, What Man Did Not Create.

A. Fallen man does not understand the underlying spiritual laws of cause and effect in his world. (1 Cor. 2:10-16) Therefore, apart from God, he cannot do anything except create poverty, death, and injustice. (John 15:5 “Apart from me you can do nothing.”)

1. Modern economic theory is presuppositionally built upon anti-Christian concepts. Examples: creative debt, wealth transfers, “insider” prosperity, unjust weights and measures (fiat money inflation).
2. Most Christians are ignorant of the foundations of economic freedom and justice possible only through a biblically-based system.

B. Massive judgment is building against modern economic idolatrous paganism. Here is what to expect:

1. The defunding of the public sector through revenue disintegration.

Loss of family-based wealth creation with attendant crime, disease, and social dependency expenditures.

Example: (Ancient Rome)

2. The inevitable collapse of the international monetary system.

II. What the Christian Response Must Be

A. The education and mobilization of spiritual leaders

1. Renewal and change begins with the leaders.
2. We must reach our leaders with these truths and reinforce their ability to see in the real world how quickly we are losing our freedoms and what they must do to reverse the process.

3. We must press for the elders to return to the gates of our cities as problem-solvers, leaders, and servants.
4. We must encourage leaders to come forward who equip the people to solve problems, as they become proprietors of their communities.



- B. The education of the people
 1. The principles of rebuilding our communities must be taught and modeled in every way possible through the creative proclamation of the good news; freedom begins in self-government under God.
 2. The business community in particular must be targeted and educated; they are ripe, ready, and intuitively grasp the truths of economic freedom with increasing clarity.

III. Compassion, Reality, and the Safety Net

- A. A holy God will reinforce the laws of His creation.
 1. We are already under judgment for our sins and it will increase.
 2. God's judgment is redemptive (Isa. 26:9).
- B. The shaking of everything is coming (Heb. 12:26-28).
 1. We are to be about the building of a safety net of compassion, truth, and enablement of people.
 2. A revival in Christ is coming; this movement is currently developing its leaders.

RESOURCE
MATERIALS**THE FIVE FOUNDATIONS OF REBUILDING**

"The earth is the Lord's and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it." —Psalm 24:1

- 1. Freedom begins in self-government under God.**
- 2. The family unit is the basic building block of a healthy society.**
- 3. The local church is the primary equipping center for effective Christian service.**
- 4. The stewardship of private property is essential to personal and societal maturity.**
- 5. Rebuilding a nation begins with rebuilding local communities.**

RECOMMENDED READING ECONOMICS, DEVELOPMENT, AND THE POOR

1. ***Productive Christians in an Age of Guilt Manipulators***, David Chilton, Tyler, TX: Institute for Christian Economics, 1982.
Stunning critique of socialist economics, liberation theology, and dependence on the welfare state/ Critiques redistributive economics.
2. ***The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism***, Michael Novak, New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 1982.
Provides a theological base for free enterprise/Discusses heritage and influence of the church on Western economic history.
3. ***Honest Money: Money & Banking***, Gary North, Fort Worth, TX: Dominion Press, 1986.
Hope and practical solutions for the monetary crisis and the banking industry/Blueprint for reform and debt repayment.
4. ***The Sinai Strategy: Economics and the 10 Commandments***, Gary North, Tyler, TX: Institute for Christian Economics, 1986.
Survey of the Commandments with specific application to the economic realm/Uses the Covenant as the basis of subsequent prosperity.
5. ***Wealth and Poverty***, George Gilder, New York, NY: Basic Books, 1981.
Survey of Western Capitalism and the downward spiral toward the liberal welfare state/History of wealth creation in the traditional family.
6. ***Is Capitalism Christian?***, Edited by Franky Schaeffer, Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1985.
A compilation of the best contemporary thinking of more than 20 noted authors/ Concise essays cover a broad range of issues.
7. ***Built to Last***, James C. Collins and Jerry I. Porras, New York, NY: Harper Collins, 2002.
8. ***Good to Great***, Jim Collins, New York, NY: Harper Business, 2001.
9. ***To Live and Work***, Christian Schumacher, Suffolk, Britain: The Chaucer Press, 1987.
10. ***Prosperity and Poverty***, E. Calvin Beisner, Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1988.
11. ***Loving Monday***, John Beckett, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.
12. ***Business as a Calling***, Michael Novak, New York, NY: The Free Press, 1996.
13. ***New Rules for the New Economy***, Kevin Kelly, New York, NY: Penguin Group, 1998.
14. ***Baptized Inflation***, Ian Hodge, Tyler, TX: Institute for Christian Economics, 1986.
15. ***Selling among Wolves***, Michael Q. Pink, Gainseville, FL: Bridge-Logos Publishers, 2000.
16. ***Wealth, Riches, & Money***, Craig Hill and Earl Pitts, Littleton, CO: Family Foundations Publishing, 2001.

BIBLE VERSES RELATED TO ECONOMICS

I. ATTITUDES TOWARD MONEY AND POSSESSIONS

GIFTS FROM GOD

Deut. 8:17, 18
 1 Chron. 29:11-16
 1 Tim. 4:3-5
 1 Tim. 6:17
 James 1:17

STEWARDSHIP

Lev. 19:23-25
 Lev. 25: 1-55
 1 Chron. 29:14-16
 Ezek. 7:20-21
 Haggai 2:8
 Matt. 22:21
 Acts 2:44-45
 1 Cor. 6:19-20

MATERIALISM

1 Chron. 1:11-12
 Job 31:24-28
 Prov. 10:2
 Prov. 11:4
 Prov. 13:7
 Prov. 15:16
 Prov. 22:1,2
 Prov. 23:4,5
 Zeph. 1:18
 Matt. 4:8-10
 Matt. 6:19-34
 Matt. 16:26
 Luke 12:15-21
 1 Tim. 3:3, 8
 1 Tim. 6:6-8
 Heb. 10:34
 Heb. 13:5

CAN'T BUY BLESSINGS

Isa. 55:1-3
 Ezek. 7:19
 Matt. 19:21-24
 Acts 8:18-22
 1 Peter 1:18,19

ATTITUDE

Haggai 1:2-4
 Matt. 6:19-21
 Matt. 18:23-35
 Luke 12:33, 34
 Luke 16:10, 11
 2 Cor. 8:3-5

GOD SUPPLIES

2 Chron. 31:5,10
 Ezra 8: 21-23
 Psalm 128
 Matt. 25:34
 Heb. 13:5,6

**PROSPERITY—
OBEDIENCE & FAVOR**

Gen. 39:2-5
 Deut. 28:1-13
 Josh. 1:8
 Psalm 1:1-3
 Psalm 73
 Phil. 4:19

II. GIVING TO GOD AND TO PEOPLE

TITHE

Gen. 14:20
Gen. 28:22
Lev. 27:30-34
Num. 78:24-29
2 Chron. 31:5-14
Matt. 23:23
Heb. 7:4-10

GIVING SHOULD BE A PRIVATE DECISION

Ex. 25:1,2
Ex. 35:21-29
Ezra 2:68, 69
Matt. 6:1-4
Acts 5:1-5
2 Cor. 8:1-5
2 Cor. 9:7

GOD'S ACCOUNTING

Matt. 6:20, 21
Matt. 19:27-30
Phil. 4:17
Ex. 22:29, 30
Deut. 23:18
2 Sam. 24:24
2 Cor. 8:18-22
Num. 18:26-32

BLESSINGS UPON GENEROSITY

Prov. 3:9, 10
Prov. 11:24, 25
Mal. 3:8-10
Matt. 6:31-34
Matt. 26:7-13
Mark 10:29,30
Mark 12:41-44
Luke 6:38
2 Cor. 9:6-12
Phil. 4:14-19
Deut. 16:17
Ezra 2:68, 69
Mal. 3:8
Mark 12:41-44
1 Cor. 16:2
2 Cor. 8:12

GENEROSITY TO THE POOR

Deut. 15:7-11
Ps. 41:1
Prov. 19:17
Matt. 5:42
Matt. 25:40
Acts 20:35
2 Cor. 8:1-5
Eph. 4:28
1 Tim. 6:17-19
1 John 3:17
Ex. 25:1-9
Num. 7:1-8
Deut. 18:1-5
Ezra 1:4-6
Ezra 2:68, 69
2 Cor. 8:13, 14
James 2:15

III. FINANCES AND MAN'S RELATIONSHIP TO THEM**GOD GUIDES WHERE HE PROVIDES**

Lev. 2:3, 10
 Num. 18:21, 24, 31
 Matt. 10:7-12
 Luke 10:1-11
 1 Cor. 9:6-16
 Acts 20:33, 34
 1 Cor. 9:14, 15
 1 Thess. 2:9

BORROWING FORBIDDEN

Deut. 15:6
 Deut. 28:12, 13
 Prov. 22:7

**COMMUNAL OWNERSHIP
NOT RECOMMENDED**

Acts 2:44, 45
 Acts 5:1-11

IV. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP**RIGHTS SHOULD BE PROTECTED**

Ex. 20:15, 17
 Ex. 21:33-36
 Ex. 22:1-15
 Lev. 24:18, 21
 Deut. 22:1-3
 Deut. 23:24, 25
 Josh. 13:19
 1 Kings 21:17-19
 Prov. 22:28
 Prov. 31:16, 24
 Matt. 20:1-16
 Acts 5:3, 4
 Deut. 24:10, 11
 Num. 27:8-11
 Num. 36
 Deut. 21:15-17
 Ezek. 46:16-18
 Ezek. 47:22, 23

**INVESTMENT AND GAIN
WITHOUT GOUGING THE POOR**

Ex. 22:25
 Deut. 24:6
 Prov. 28:8
 Matt. 25:15-30
 Luke 19:11-25

V. PROBLEMS RELATED TO PROSPERITY AND MONEY

LOVE OF MONEY

Prov. 15:27
Prov. 22:16
Prov. 28:20-22
Eccl. 5:10-16
Isa. 56:9-12
Matt. 13:22
Matt. 19:21-24
Mark 10:21-25
Luke 12:13-34
1 Tim. 6:9, 10
James 4:1-3

WARNINGS ABOUT SURETY

Prov. 6:1-5
Prov. 11:15
Prov. 17:18
Prov. 22:26, 27

WEALTH CAN CAUSE PROBLEMS

Deut. 8:11-18
Prov. 19:6
Eccl. 5:10-16
1 Tim. 6:17-19

CAUSE OF POVERTY

Prov. 11:24
Prov. 13:18
Prov. 14:23
Prov. 20:13
Prov. 22:16
Prov. 23:20, 21
Prov. 28:19-22
Jer. 17:11
Isa. 65:12, 13

VI. WORK

GOD'S PLAN FOR MAN

Gen. 1:26-28
Gen. 2:15
Gen. 3:19
Ex. 20:9
Prov. 14:23
Prov. 28:19
Prov. 31:10-27
Acts 20:34, 35
Eph. 4:28
1 Thess. 4:11, 12
2 Thess. 3:10-13

PLAN AHEAD

Prov. 6:6-11
Prov. 30:25-28
Prov. 31:16, 21, 27
Matt. 25:1-13
Luke 14: 28-32
James 4:13-15

EXCUSES ACCOMPLISH LITTLE

Prov. 26:13-16
Prov. 27:1
Eccl. 11:4

WORK BRINGS SATISFACTION

Psalms 128:2
Prov. 12:11
Prov. 31:21
Prov. 31:28-31
Eph. 5:12
Eph. 4:28
1 Thess. 4:11, 12

GOD REWARDS DILIGENCE

Prov. 10:4,5
Prov. 13:4
Prov. 20:13
Prov. 31:27
Eccl. 9:10
Ezek. 34:2-6
Rom. 12:11