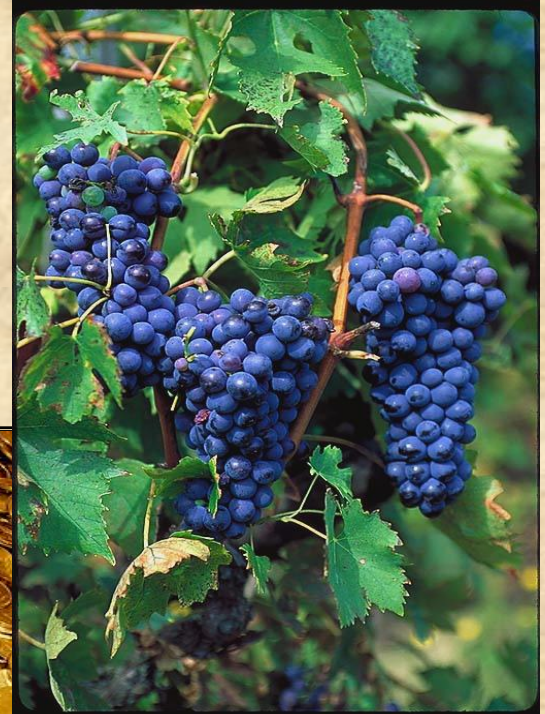


GET RICH!

Lessons for Living in the Spiritual Economy



Mark Drabenstott
Menucha 2009

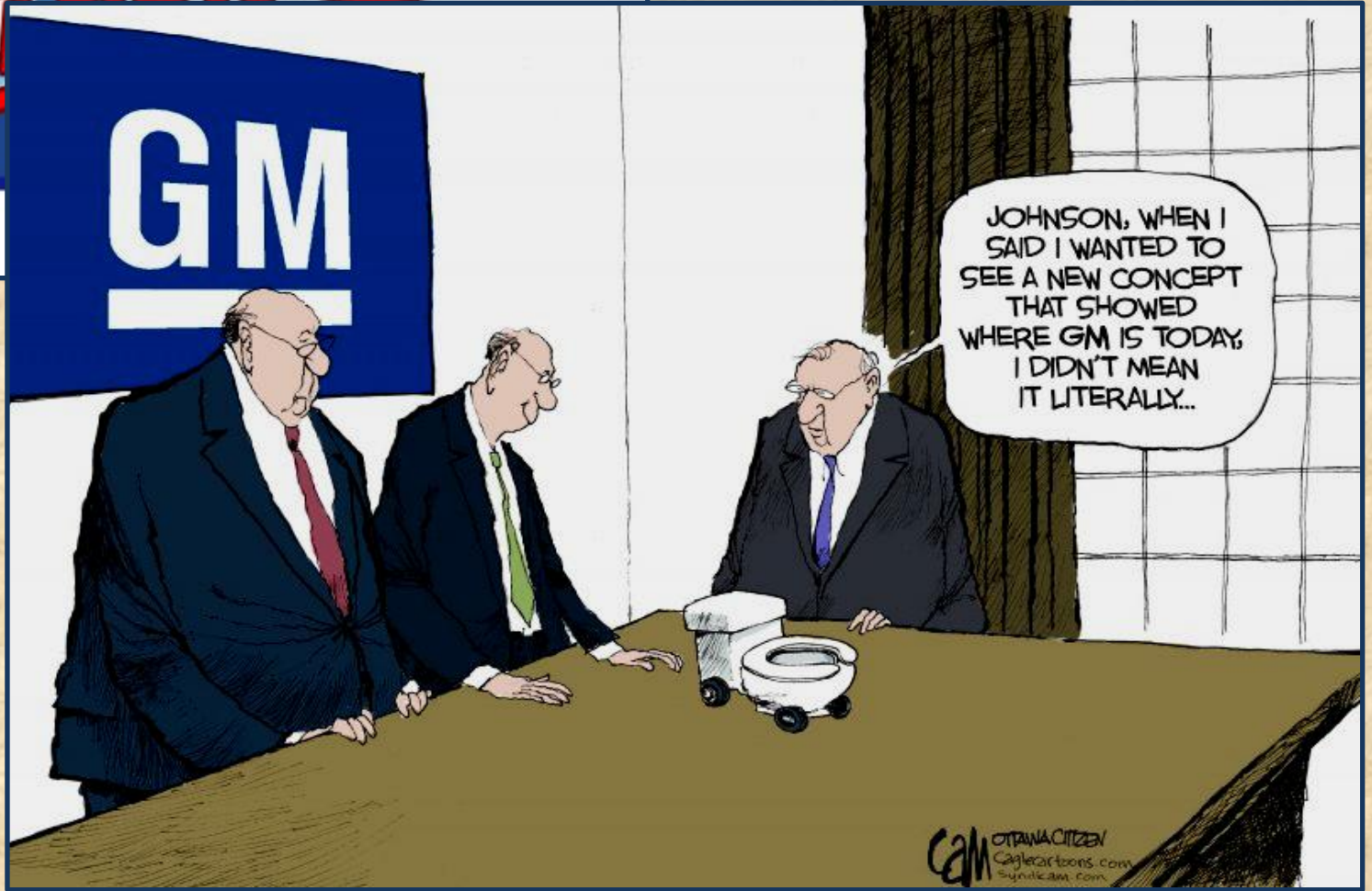
Lessons for living in the spiritual economy.

- **Get rich — toward God!**
Know your economic imperative.
- **Spiritual economics 101**
Beware mixing economic principles!
- **Invest in the spiritual economy**
Master the two secrets to success.
- **Manage debt God's way**
Avoid spiritual bankruptcy.
- **Use wealth wisely**
Give back—before it's too late.



QUESTION OF THE DAY

True or False?
I am debt-free.

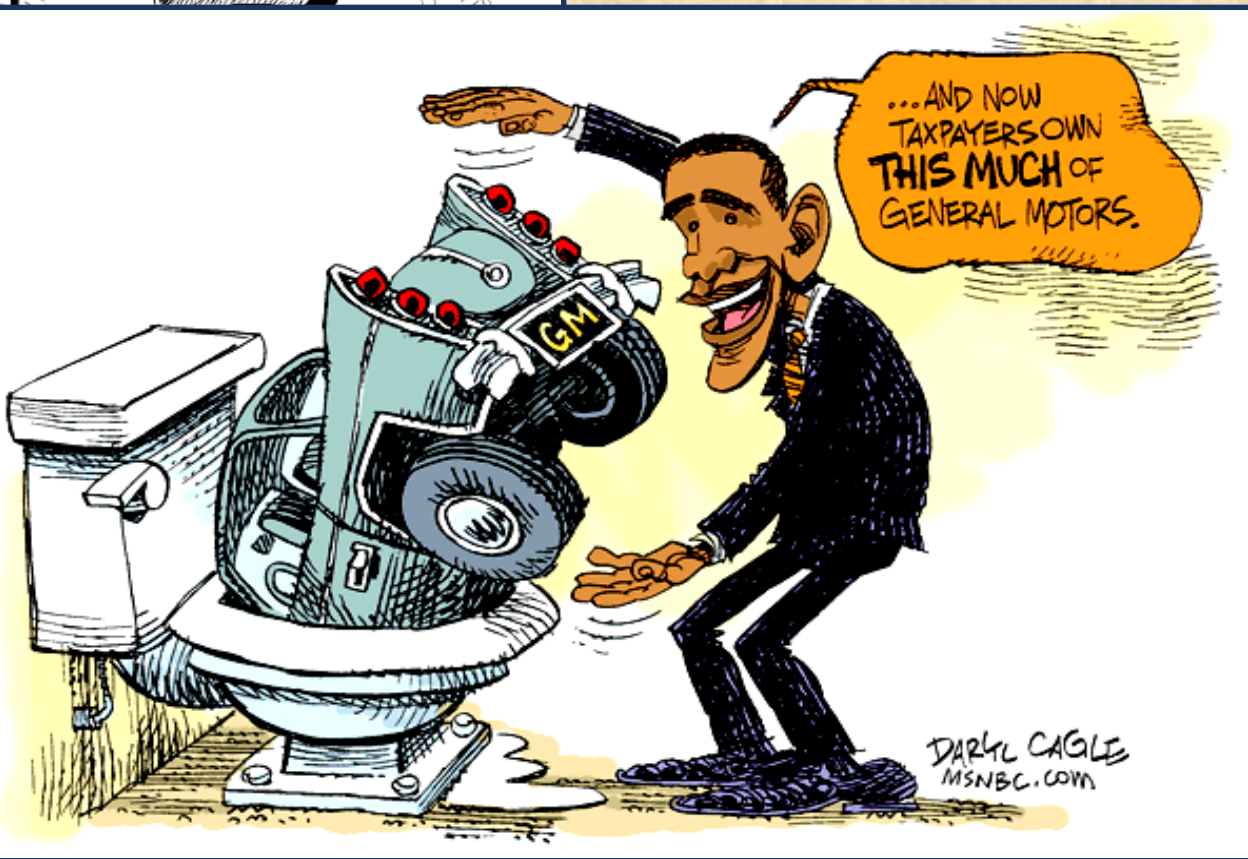


Cam OTTAWA CITIZEN
Caglecartoons.com
Synicam.com

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE WE HAVE DISCOVERED A SOURCE OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY THAT WILL PROPEL OUR CARS INTO THE FUTURE...



YOURS.



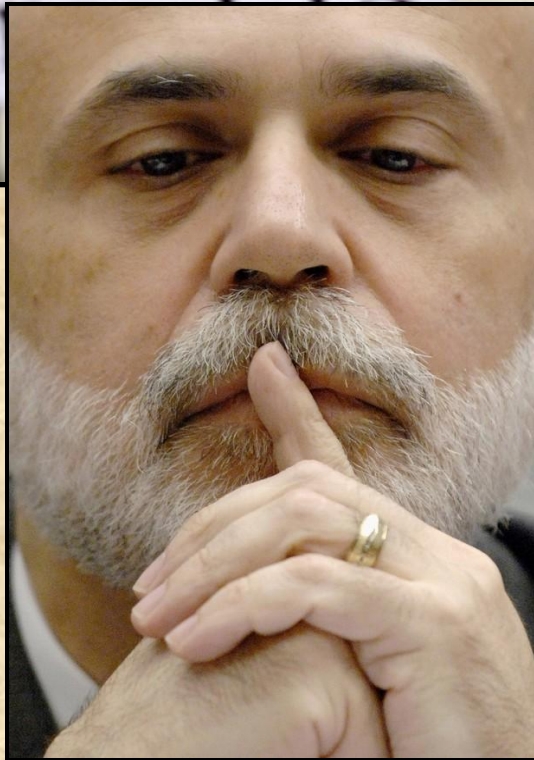
DARYL CAGLE
MSNBC.COM





The Symbol of our Times

- Debt was the trigger for the global financial crisis.
- Consumers borrowed beyond their ability to pay.
- Banks lent to borrowers who could *never* repay.
- And regulators were asleep at the switch.



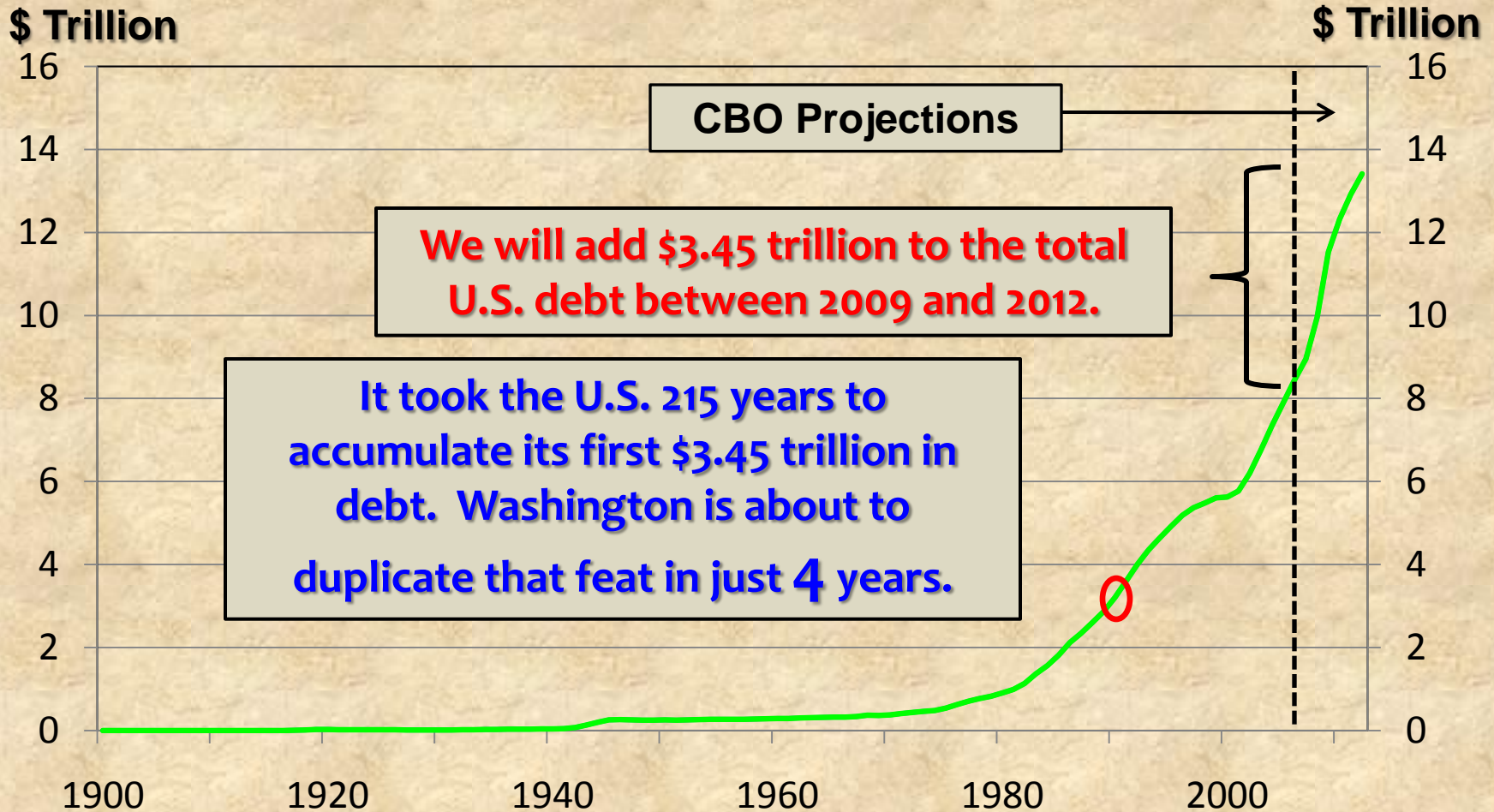
Lehman Brothers Share Price



Lehman Brothers Market Cap



Total U.S. Federal Debt





The US debt legacy.

- Every 8 hours, another \$1 billion in interest is due.
- The taxes from every single taxpayer west of the Mississippi are fully required to pay the interest on the U.S. government debt every year.

Y'all need to work harder!



How much is a billion dollars?

63 miles!

**How long to pay
off \$1 billion?**

1 \$ a second ...

**31 years
259 days
1 hour
46 minutes
40 seconds**



How long to pay
off \$1 TRILLION?

1 \$ a second ...



32,000 years



Who's your spiritual accountant?



- Do you have one?
- What kind of books does he keep?
- Is he scrupulously accurate?

Spiritual Accounting 101

What are our assets?

There is really only one:

Your name in the book of life.

He who conquers shall be clad thus in white garments, and **I will not blot his name out of the book of life.**

Rev 3:5

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem ... nothing unclean shall enter it ... but **only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

Rev 21:2, 27

What are our liabilities?

There are **many**:

Your sins.

A woman of the city, who was a **sinner** ... wet his feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head ... A certain creditor had two **debtors** ... When they could not pay, **he forgave them both.** ... He said to her, "**Your sins are forgiven.**"

Luke 7:37-39



A lesson on debt ... in a house of debt.

- It was the house of Simon, a Pharisee. They had the worst spiritual balance sheets of their day. **The House of Pharisee was bankrupt.**
- It was home to Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. It seems quite likely that this Mary was Mary Magdalene, and the woman in this story.
- How else did she gain access to this great dinner?
- She had lived a life full of sin—receiving scorn in exchange, even, *perhaps especially* from her own family.
- She listened carefully to His words—Who will love him more?
- She distinguished herself with her love—and the first to see him risen!

Spiritual Bankruptcy



"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for **you are like whitewashed tombs**, which outwardly appear beautiful, but **within they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness**. 28 So you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but within you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity .

Matt 23:27-28 RSV

Spiritual Bankruptcy



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Matt 23:27-28 RSV



Paul's Primer on Debt Forgiveness.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from law, although the law and the prophets bear witness to it, 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who **believe**. For there is no distinction; 23 since **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God, 24 they are **justified by his grace as a gift**, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as an **expiation** by his blood, **to be received by faith**. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had **passed over * former sins**; 26 it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies him who has faith in Jesus. *Rom. 3:21-26*

***paresis**: passing over; disregarding

The Case of Abraham

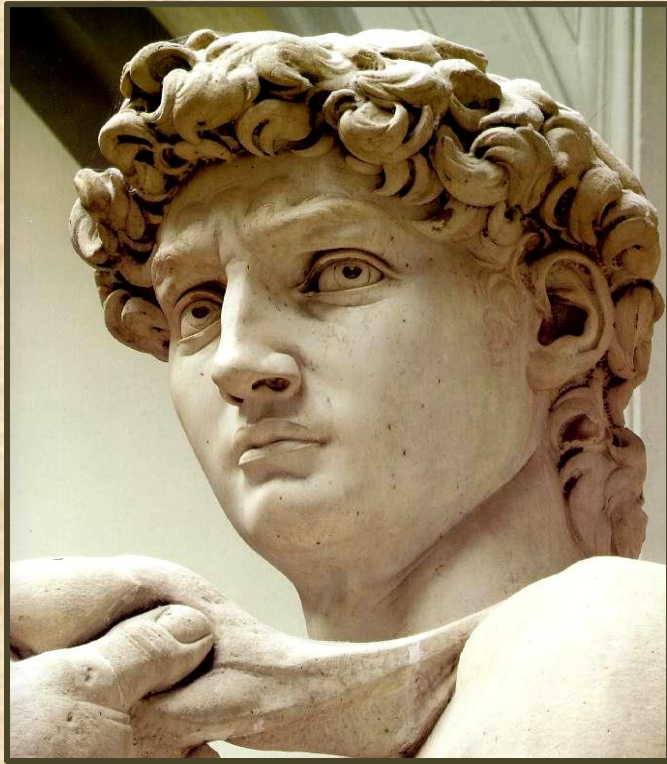


For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned* to him as righteousness." 4 Now to one who works, his wages are not reckoned as a gift but as his due. 5 And to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness.

Rom. 4:3-5 RSV

***Logizomai (3049): to take inventory; to count or number; to reckon or account**

The Case of David



So also David pronounces a blessing upon the man to whom God **reckons** righteousness apart from works: 7 "Blessed are those whose iniquities are **forgiven***, and whose sins are **covered**; 8 blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not **reckon** his sin."

Rom. 4:6-8 RSV

- **aphiemi** (863): to send away
- **epikalupto** (1943): to cover over

Each of us have crushing debts.

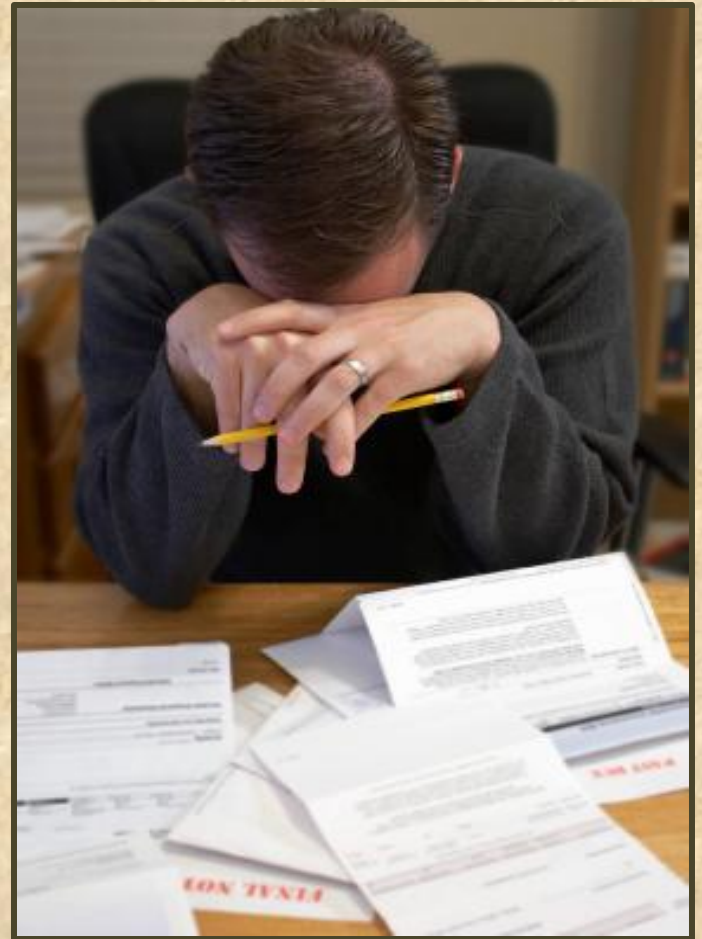
“I have a mountain of debt.”

Sins of commission.

Sins of omission.

FAR too many to count.

And far more than I can ever repay.



But if you put your faith in Jesus,
THIS is your debt...



Avoiding Spiritual Bankruptcy

- Spiritual bankruptcy is serious business.
- It was the object of Jesus' harshest words.
- It is being ignored in our community.



How do we avoid it?

Avoiding Spiritual Bankruptcy

And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. 15 "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! 16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth. 17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing; not knowing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. 18 Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, that you may be rich, and white garments to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see .

Rev. 3:14-18 RSV



1. They did not know they were bankrupt!
2. How to buy gold???

Avoiding Bankruptcy: 1

The remedy for spiritual bankruptcy can only come from Jesus.

He is the bankruptcy judge—savior, king, & advocate.

Spiritual debts can be forgiven *only through him*.

He is the Master Carpenter—only he can build our financial house.



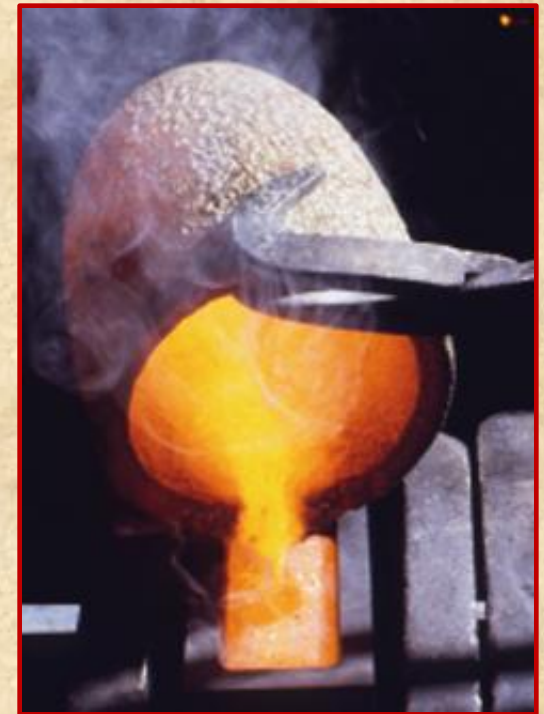
Avoiding Bankruptcy: 2

To avoid spiritual bankruptcy, we must have one crucial asset on our spiritual balance sheet—*faith*.

“gold refined by fire”

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, so that the *genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire*, may redound to praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Pet. 1:6-7 RSV



The Pharisees had a mountain of debt, but not one hint of this asset!

Avoiding Bankruptcy: 3

We must “buy” gold.

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, **buy** wine and milk without money and without cost. 2 Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.

Is. 55:1-2 RSV



***shabar:** to buy or purchase grain—to trade in grain.

“Buying” through Joseph



The most frequent use of *shabar* is in the account of Joseph’s brothers in Egypt to “buy” grain.

Consider:

- They would die without food.
- There was NO place else to go for grain.
- They did not come empty-handed—they were willing to give something in exchange.
- They could only obtain the grain through the intervention of Joseph.

We have no where to turn but to our “Joseph”!

“Buying” Parables

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and **sells all that he has and buys that field.**

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a **merchant** in search of fine pearls who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and **sold all that he had and bought it.**

Mt. 13:44-46



Are you a searching “trader”?

What will you give in exchange for the pearl without price?

Avoiding Bankruptcy: 4

We must forgive as we have been forgiven.

“forgive us our debts as we forgive...”

Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to **settle accounts** with his servants. 24 When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; 25 and as **he could not pay**, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, **have patience** with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and **forgave*** him the debt.

Mt. 18:23-27 RSV



***Aphiemi (863):** to send away

Avoiding Bankruptcy: 4

We must forgive as we have been forgiven.

“Forgive us our debts as we forgive...”

But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' 29 So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience (sw) with me, and I will pay you.' 30 He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. 31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; 33 and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Mt. 18:28-35 RSV



The Lord's anger comes from our response, not our debt!

Avoiding Bankruptcy While We Can

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. **7** Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for **he will freely pardon.**

Is. 55:6-7 RSV



1. The Lord is in the marketplace *now*. But that will change, maybe very soon.
2. The time for debt forgiveness will pass.

Why is grace the most abundant commodity in the spiritual economy?

In him we have
redemption through his
blood, the forgiveness
of our trespasses,
according to **the riches**
of his grace which he
lavished* upon us.

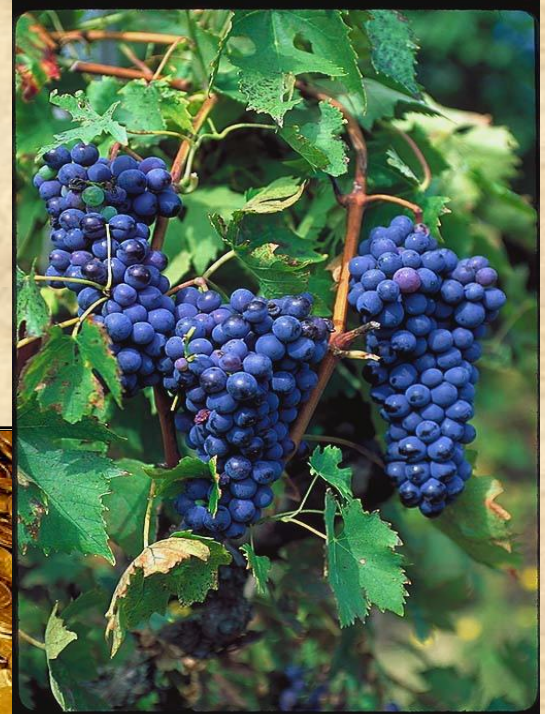
Eph 1:7-8 RSV

Because there is SO MUCH DEBT!



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