



August 31, 2009

Hey Guys,

Just some random thoughts:

Trying to borrow your way out of debt is a bad idea for a family or a nation. The latest estimate is that our nation will have an additional \$9 trillion more in budget deficits by 2020. I can't imagine how we could survive that kind of debt. Our nation needs to learn the principle of the hole: when you're in one, quit digging. Whatever happened to the concept of only doing what you can actually afford to do? I guess that philosophy doesn't get politicians elected. And Congress isn't spending their money; they're spending yours.

Years ago someone said that no democracy could last over 200 years. When people figure out that they can vote themselves benefits, they will vote the country into bankruptcy. Americans have figured this out. Who is going to turn down a "freebie"? There is a great movie called "The Cinderella Man". It's about a guy who lost his job (during the depression, I think) and had to get on welfare to feed his wife and child. He ended up boxing to make money, did well, and returned to the government every dime of welfare that he had received. This would especially be a fairy tale in our day.

There ain't no such thing as a free lunch. If you get something without paying for it, someone else pays for something he didn't get. There will never be "free" health care. ALL healthcare is paid for by somebody.

I mentioned Sunday that in America these days nobody is responsible for anything that he does but that we are all collectively responsible for everything everyone else does. We have become a nation of victims whose only chance of prosperity (so victims think) is winning the lottery or a lawsuit. Educating yourself, hard work, determination, saving for the future: those are just relics of an ancient past.

Have you noticed that those who drink, smoke, and gamble are often those who can least afford to do so? Why should people who take care of their money and their health be responsible to support those who take care of neither?

If you pay taxes, then you have paid for much lately. Congratulations! Because of your hard work, you have given cash to people for their "clunkers"; because of your generosity, many have new cars (while you drive your old one). You have also helped give \$8,000 for first-time home buyers. You have also helped give \$400,000 for tattoo removal in California.

Thinking about the brutal car-jack, rape, torture, and murder that fills our news these days: What if one of the perpetrators was your child? And what if your child got the death penalty? What would be your greatest grief? Would it be that your child was going

to die? Or would it be that your child committed such evil? Or would your greatest grief of all be the loss that those two families have suffered? How you answer this question will tell you a lot about yourself.

The role of government is to protect citizens and create fear in the hearts of criminals (Romans 13:3-4). These days the citizens live in fear and the government protects the criminals. Most crimes are committed by people with police records as long as your arm. Laws were originally designed to protect the innocent, law abiding person. Our laws today protect the bad guys and do little or nothing for the law-abiding victims. Before the double-murder killers die, taxpayers will pay out at least \$20,000,000. They can appeal and appeal and appeal. Why not do it? It doesn't cost them a dime? They have access to legal help (free) that you couldn't even begin to afford: shame on you for being responsible, working hard, and taking care of yourself.

Isn't it amazing that you can be evil or poor and have access to medical care and legal representation that people who are good and industrious can't afford? Working people have to actually decide what they can afford. Our politicians are determined to make sure that those who don't work and those who break the law don't have to make such difficult choices. The "redistribution of wealth", the victim mentality, and misguided compassion kill motivation - see Proverbs 16:26. Our nation should always be committed to providing opportunity; it should never do for others what they can and should do for themselves (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

Most people will never become responsible for themselves as long as someone else is willing to be responsible for them. More often than not (these days), people only change when the pain of not changing is greater than the cost of changing.

This is the culture that we now live in. It is dark and getting worse. The good news is this: the darker it gets the more your light can shine. Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by a Biblically-renewed mind so that you can be salt in a world so desperately in need.

Thanks for all your time. I hope these thoughts stimulate yours. I hope that you decide that, by God's grace, you're going to make a difference in the world.

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