

Paul de Jong states that:

“In the US, they’ve coined a new name for clients ... whose main aim in life is to consume their last penny in savings about the same time as they take their last breath. They call them ‘die brokers’. According to one Forbes business magazine report, they have no plan to leave any significant portion of their estate to charity. .. And in Australia ..80 percent of the ‘grey nomads’ –the campervan crowd who tour the Outback –are living by the SKIN principle: Spending Kids’ Inheritance Now. (God Money and Me, Ch 29)

1. By contrast, in Genesis God speaks to Abraham with a promise of Blessing:

Read and discuss the Keynote scripture we have been using to describe the legacy of financial blessing that Abraham created for countless generations who follow in his family line, both in a spiritual sense and physical. Genesis 12:1-3 NKJV.

DISCUSSION POINT

In what sense does God desire Saving as a principle over his people? Discuss this:

“We want to be people who plant trees, under whose shade we will never get to recline...”

2. So, what does it mean to be a faithful manager of Gods gifts, and finances?

King David shows us a remarkable example of Saving with a Legacy in mind-

Consider for example : “Then David said to Ornan, "Give me the site of this threshing floor, that I may build on it an altar to the LORD; for the full price you shall give it to me,..."

Ornan said to David, "Take it for yourself; and let my lord the king do what is good in his sight. See, I will give the oxen for burnt offerings and the threshing sledges for wood and the wheat for the grain offering; I will give it all." But King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will surely buy it for the full price; for I will not take what is yours for the LORD, or offer a burnt offering which costs me nothing." 1 Chronicles 21:22-24, 26-30

DISCUSSION POINT

What is the contrast between the current mindset of the world towards minimising expenditure by getting discounts (especially on human labour) versus the quality approach David takes toward his giving and purchases, especially those for the sake of the Temple, that he longed to build.

3. What happens when we fail to save for the future?

Read and discuss Acts 2:41-45; and Acts 4:32-35 and then contrast that to the situation that Paul describes in 2 Corinthians 8:1-15. It seems apparent that the Church in Jerusalem is now so impoverished that it requires aid from the Gentile churches Paul has planted. Bear in mind that when the Jewish people sold their property they were also handing up their Birthright according to the Law and their Legacy was forever changed.

Conclusion

Paul de Jong shows that it makes enormous financial and spiritual sense to be someone who Tithes ten percent, Seeds ten percent, and Saves ten per cent ...