



True Riches eNewsletter

December 2008

"So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" Luke 16:11

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Thoughts on the Economy

John Piper, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis

I believe the Lord brought this word to mind in one of our prayer meetings on Friday: *The worst of all times is the best of all times for missions.* We were praying over Lamentations 3. Those were the worst of times for Israel. But in that moment they were given the best of promises, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (3:22-23)

Today marks the close of Missions Focus at Bethlehem. So we were praying for missions. That is when this word came: The worst of all times is the best of all times for missions. Such words do not have intrinsic authority the way Scripture does. They must be tested. Here is the truth I hear in those words.

1. During an economic downturn we are more dependent on God. That is the most fertile soil for creating missionaries.
2. During an economic downturn unreached people around the world do not expect you to come, but to look out for yourself. So they may more likely see your risk as love rather than exploitation.
3. During an economic downturn those who need Christ around the world may be less secure in earthly things and more ready to hear about eternal life.
4. During an economic downturn people at home may be wakened to the brevity of life and the fragility of material things, and so may become more generous not less. *And when they give under these circumstances, it will make Christ look all the more like the all-satisfying Treasure that he is.*



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The Christian Legacy Foundation (CLF) exists to enable faithful stewards to give wisely to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

CLF is the Tampa Bay area affiliate of the National Christian Foundation.

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And so it may well prove to be that the worst of all times is the best of all times for missions.

Share the Priceless Joy of Giving

The greatest gifts in life don't come in packages. This Christmas, give the ones you love something they'll truly treasure with a Joy of Generosity Fund through NCF. Pre-funded with contributions from your Giving Fund, or through your new gift, a Joy Fund enables your friends and family to experience the priceless joy of giving as they recommend grants to Christian ministries through NCF. To learn how the Joy Fund brought one family closer together, read the testimonial below. Then, go to www.clfinc.org/joy or call us at 813-567-1499.



Testimonial: How the Joy Fund Brought a Family Together

Growing up as one of five children in the small gulf coast city of Baytown, Texas, Joanna Schima and her brothers and sister shared lots of travels together...camping trips with the whole family, shrimping and fishing trips with their dad, and summer road trips to their grandparents' farm. But today they are traveling down a different road together on a journey of giving. And it was the joy of generosity that set them on this new path. [Read more](#)



Super Bowl Breakfast - January 31st

The 2009 Super Bowl Breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 31st at the USF Sun

Dome. Bart Starr, Tony Dungy, Derrick Brooks, Anthony Munoz



and other NFL athletes and coaches will be on hand to celebrate the presentation of the Bart Starr Award. This award is presented to an NFL player for outstanding character and leadership in the home, on the field and in the community. All the players in the NFL vote on this award at the same time they vote on the Pro Bowl. The winner will be announced at the Super Bowl Breakfast. Past winners include Reggie White, Mike Singletary, Derrick Brooks, Cris Carter and LaDainian Tomlinson. Tampa Bay's own Warrick Dunn is one of the ten nominees for the 2009 Bart Starr Award.

Tickets to the 2009 Super Bowl Breakfast make a perfect Christmas gift for the sports fan on your list. Tickets are normally \$150 each but this year - due to the size of the venue - they are \$20 each!. Buy your tickets now - [click here!](#)

Local Ministry Events

Christian Legacy Foundation is now exclusively using the community calendar of FaithTampaBay.com, because of the strategic relationship between the two ministries.

January 10 - Crown Small Group Leader Training 8:30 - 3:00 Christ the King Church Register at www.crown.org or contact Bob Swatland at 727-392-6364.

January 31 - Super Bowl Breakfast

February - CLF Foundation Training

March - Compassion Awards

April - Generous Giving National Conference in Arizona

If your ministry event isn't listed, please go to www.FaithTampaBay.com and sign up with them or let us know by emailing Angie at angie@clfinc.org. We'd like to include all our ministry partners' events.

A Laugh A Day...

The NEW Diet!

Needing to shed a few pounds, my husband and I went on a diet that had specific recipes for each meal of the day. I followed the instructions closely, dividing the finished recipe in half for our individual plates. We felt terrific and thought the diet was wonderful - we never even felt hungry!

But when we realized we were gaining weight, not losing it, I checked the recipes again.

There, in fine print, was: "Serves 6."

From Crosswalk.com's daily, "You Make Me Laugh" e-newsletter.

email: clf@clfinc.org
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web: <http://www.clfinc.org>

CLF IS Christian Estate

Did you know that CLF has developed a uniquely Christian approach to estate planning and estate design? If you would like to hear our ideas or if you would like a free second opinion on your current estate plan, please contact us. You may find a new, creative way to support your church and favorite ministries!

Planning and Design

Find out how a Giving Fund can be a powerful and flexible part of your estate plan by downloading [Testamentary Giving](#) from our website.

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