STEWARDSHIP (Continued)

world were laid. When Adam acted in a rebellious and irresponsible manner with God's creation order, God already had the plan in place to "buy it back."

Our heavenly Father redeemed the earth and all that is therein through the sacrifice of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. He did not redeem it so that man could squander it in his own slothfulness and indolence, but rather, so that man could use the creation to glorify God (I Pet. 1:17-20)! How heartbroken we were to have the place that we had invested with such loving care abused and degraded by selfish and irresponsible people. They can claim to be our friends from now to eternity, but their abuse, negligence and slothfulness tells the true story. Have we as blood bought Christians not been guilty of helping the world vandalize and destroy God's creation by our indolence and apathy? How, then, can we claim to be His intimate friends?!

God is not an absentee landlord, as we were, but He does give His people discretion to use His possessions as they see fit. The parable of the talents illustrates that in God's economy, He is not even satisfied if we return the property, talents, opportun-ities, etc. with which He has blessed us undamaged, but unmultiplied. God expects INCREASE on all that He puts in our care (Mat. 25:27)! What will the last few generations of Christians say when we stand before the Lord and He wants to know what we have done with the many opportunities He has given us?

Friends, as Christians we are not to be as the fearful servant, the unwise virgins or the renters we had in our home. We must seek the Lord for greater vision and more faith so that we can labor diligently to subdue all that is in our sphere of influence to the redeeming Gospel of the Kingdom of God! Nothing is exempted from this mandate, including civil government, as the Patriarches of our faith and our Founders understood so well. Many of us are aware of huge messes that have been created by ourselves or others in all spheres, and weary though we may be, we must put our hands to the plow and reclaim the abused and neglected areas of life that we have lost or damaged through our unbiblical spiritual sloth. How Dannie would have resented Barry and me as parents if we had simply walked off and left her with the mess our renters left to clean up. We cannot continue to do that on a cosmic scale to our precious children!

God is a gracious God. He is sending out a profound stirring in the spirits of all who desire His will to warn them that our Landlord is soon to call for an accounting from us. We have many messes to clean up before it is too late! Let us not be caught in the degrading position that our previous tenants are in, but let us labor diligently to demonstrate to the world what a full Gospel the Bible does indeed present.

The Judgment is upon us for the Harvest is right around the corner. Those who have been spiritually diligent will be prepared to welcome the anointing of the Holy Spirit soon to fall on the children of obedience and they will have a cleaned and sanctified temple through which God's authority and power can flow. Those who persist in their self-centered indolence will surely retain their salvation, but their time for establishing good works that cannot be burned by fire is quickly fleeing (I Cor. 3:12-15). In which category do you belong? Let us heed Hebrews 12:27-29: *"Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: FOR OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE."* Search your hearts, brothers and sisters, and join us in looking toward the new decade of the 1990's with anticipation of an

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STEWARDSHIP (Continued)

unprecedented moving of the Spirit of God through His prepared people.

"And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them: of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat. Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"

Joshua 24:13-15

SPIRITUAL IMMORALITY AND SPIRITUAL ABORTION

The Church has been pointing its finger at the world for its immorality even while she commits spiritual immorality with the world. As James declared: "You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an ENEMY OF GOD" (James 4:4). We abhor abortions (as we should), but how many spiritual seeds planted in the Church by the Lord have been aborted because we didn't want to bother with carrying them to term? How many potentially great and effective men and women of God are now lifeless pew warmers because we snuffed out the vision God had planted in them for ministry?

We have been quick to point our finger at the world for its abortions while we commit spiritual abortion for the same reasons they commit theirs: it is too inconvenient to carry the spiritual seeds the Lord plants in us to term, we are selfish, or we do not think we can afford them. How many of God's seeds have we aborted before they were born because we could not afford to send them out, while at the same time we gloat over our new multi-million dollar buildings and family life centers. The Lord does hate abortion, and it will bring His wrath, but He is going to start with His own house. If the Church were walking in the light that she has, the world would not be living in the darkness that it is. We flail at the world's branches, but the Lord is about to put the ax to the root of our own tree. The Church is supposed to confront the world with its iniquity, but not before we have been examined by the same finger. Only then will we be able to effectively confront the world and its problems. As the apostle explained, "And we are ready to punish all disobedience WHENEVER YOUR OBEDIENCE IS COMPLETE" (II Cor. 10:6). [Quoted from Rick Joyner's new book, the expanded version of The Harvest, soon to be available through "THE WATCHMAN."]

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