

A Positive Slant on Our Current Economic and Moral Crisis:  
Could this be God's Wake-up Call?

*Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; ... Rev. 3:17, 18*

The **gold** that Jesus would have us buy of Him is gold **tried in the fire**;  
it is the **gold of faith and love** that has no defiling substance mingled with it.

-7 BC, p. 965

According to many leading authorities in the field of economics, the United States finds itself living in “unprecedented times.” With an unemployment rate of over 18%, many leading companies and banks threatening closure, housing foreclosures at an all time high and a faltering stock market, the future looks bleak at best. Is it any wonder that the best financial minds of our time seem powerless to “right the ship?”

Allow me to share with you the words penned by God's inspired prophetess over a century ago:

“There are not many, even among educators and statesmen, who comprehend the causes that underline the present state of society. Those who hold the reins of government are not able to solve the problems of moral corruption, poverty and increasing crime. They are struggling **IN VAIN** to place business operations on a more secure basis. -9T, p. 13

Could it be that in the midst of a devastated economy, our Father is quietly whispering to His children, “It's time to WAKE UP!”?

The Spirit of Prophecy tells us that the “gold tried in the fire” that every child of God is to receive is increased faith and increased love. Could it be that our Father is placing us in circumstances to grow our faith (trust) relationship with Him and to grow our love for Him and others? In the present economic state of America many people are being forced to go deeper in trusting God to provide for their needs. Others are being led by the Holy Spirit to live sacrificially that they may help their brothers and sisters in need or that they may help the cause of God go forward. Could it be that God is at work behind the scenes quietly returning His church to the faith and love of His early church after Pentecost? Our present economy is forcing us to make a decision on the “gold tried in the fire.” Adversity is a dear friend!

I believe that our greatest and most meaningful days to assist God's children/youth in becoming "Champions for Christ" are just before us, teacher friends. Our Father is in the process of preparing an army of teachers whose lives are absolutely saturated with the Holy Spirit. He has called you "for such a time as this."

My prayer for you and myself is that we will so give ourselves to God that His Spirit will kindle a holy passion in each of us that will never be quenched. It's time to wake up and take our marching orders from the King of the universe.

**Here are some thoughts for us to prayerfully consider:**

The Laodicean message applies to the people of God who profess to believe present truth. The greater part are lukewarm professors, having a name but no zeal. God signified that He wanted men at the great heart of the work to correct the state of things existing there and to stand like faithful sentinels at their post of duty. He has given them light at every point, to instruct, encourage, and confirm them, as the case required. But notwithstanding all this, those who should be faithful and true, fervent in Christian zeal, of gracious temper, knowing and loving Jesus earnestly, are found aiding the enemy to weaken and discourage those whom God is using to build up the work. The term "lukewarm" is applicable to this class. They profess to love the truth, yet are deficient in Christian fervor and devotion. They dare not give up wholly and run the risk of the unbeliever, yet they are unwilling to die to self and follow out closely the principles of their faith. {4T 87.1}

The only hope for the Laodiceans is a clear view of their standing before God, a knowledge of the nature of their disease. They are neither cold nor hot; they occupy a neutral position, and at the same time flatter themselves that they are in need of nothing.... They do not engage thoroughly and heartily in the work of God, identifying themselves with its interests; but they hold aloof and are ready to leave their posts when their worldly personal interests demand it. The internal work of grace is wanting in their hearts; of such it is said: "Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." {4T 87.2}

If Christ be in us the hope of glory, we shall discover such matchless charms in Him that the soul will be enamored. It will cleave to Him, choose to love Him, and in admiration of Him, self will be forgotten. Jesus will be magnified and adored, and self abased and humbled. But a profession, without this deep love, is mere talk, dry formality, and heavy drudgery. Many of you may retain a notion of religion in the head, an outside religion, when the heart is not cleansed. God looks at the heart; "all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." Will He be satisfied with anything but truth in the inward parts? Every truly converted soul will carry the unmistakable marks that the carnal mind is subdued. {1T 162.4}