

Revelation 18

Surviving the Nineties: Part Two

[or How To Survive The Coming Financial Meltdown]

Have you stopped to consider what has happened lately?

- The vast swings in the stock markets.
- The drop in real estate values in many parts of the country.
- Floods, tornadoes and hurricane damages in staggering AMOUNTS.
- Violent crime menacing every neighborhood.
- Corporate downsizing that hits everyone of us.

All of this we saw is only a foretaste of whats to come. But God has not left us without instructions. In Revelation we see truth to live by for a safe future.

POINT ONE: TO SURVIVE THE 90'S = BUILD YOUR LIFE WITH FIREPROOF MATERIALS

1. Because God compares our earthly life to a BUILDING, so watch what you build with and where. [Quakes, fires, hurricanes, floods]
 - I Corinthians 3:10-17 ¹⁰ According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. ¹¹ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ, ¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. ¹⁶ Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? ¹⁷ If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are. (KJV)
2. Because God says our life is a STEWARDSHIP, so watch where you invest it. [Scams, bilked out of millions, folded companies, Depco, stock market crashes]
 - EVERYTHING WE ARE WE GOT ON LOAN FROM GOD
 - I Corinthians 4:5-7 ⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God. ⁶ And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think *of men* above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another. For who maketh thee to differ *from another?* and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it? (KJV)
3. Because God says our life is like a RACE, so watch out for the rules, know the boundaries and keep the baggage at a minimum. [Must keep in lines, follow rules, not trip]
 - WATCH THE RULES: I Corinthians 9:24-27 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight

like a man beating the air. ²⁷ No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. (NIV)

- KEEP THE BAGGAGE TO A MINIMUM: Hebrews 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (KJV)
- KNOW THE BOUNDARIES: 2 Corinthians 5:10-17 ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad... ¹⁴ For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: ¹⁵ And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. ..¹⁷ Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (KJV)