

“How The Rich Survive Tough Times”
February 15, 2009 * Hebrews 12:1-13

I. *Our current crisis – which pattern will it follow?*

- *That which younger Americans have experienced?*
- *That which older Americans have experienced?*

II. *Three things which should trouble us about the present crisis:*

A. *The awareness that this is a _____ crisis.*

B. *The awareness of _____.*

1. *What usually happens when a person becomes desperate?*

2. *How does Scripture describe the human heart?*

C. *The awareness of the place where the Bible says human _____ is heading.*

1. *What will conditions be like prior to the return of Christ?*

2. *What conditions would need to exist to bring those days about?*

Our purpose in calling attention to these potentialities is not to incite fear but to incite the fear of

_____.

III. *So How Do We Survive Tough Times?*

A. *Connect to the _____.*

1. *The ‘community of saints’ has three parts to it. What are they?*

• **The saints who have gone _____ us.**

• **The saints _____ with us now.**

• **The saints who will follow in our _____.**

B. *Consecrate yourself to _____.*

1. *What do we mean by ‘consecration to Christ’?*

Following the _____ Jesus gives using the _____ Jesus gives.

2. *What’s our part in this?*

C. *Commit to growing in _____.*

1. *“Endure hardship as discipline.” Does this mean that when I experience hardship that I am being punished for something wrong?*

2. *What does it mean?*

IV. *Final Thoughts*

“How The Rich Survive Tough Times” **February 15, 2009 * Hebrews 12:1-13**

I. Our current crisis – which pattern will it follow?

- *That which younger Americans have experienced?*
- *That which older Americans have experienced?*

II. Three things which should trouble us about the present crisis:

*A. The awareness that this is a **global** crisis.*

*B. The awareness of **human nature**.*

- 1. What usually happens when a person becomes desperate?*

We act out on the worst part of our nature.

- 2. How does Scripture describe the human heart?*

Jer.17:9 – The heart is deceitful above all things.

*C. The awareness of the place where the Bible says human **history** is heading.*

- 1. What will conditions be like prior to the return of Christ?*

A time of warfare, hatred, loss of love. People will turn from God and pursue pleasure. There will be social distress and chaos, and out of that rubble will arise a figure who will take the world’s stage whom the nations will worship because he will bring a sense of order. Scripture calls him though the ‘man of lawlessness’, the ‘antichrist’, and the ‘Beast’. (See Matt.24, 2 Tim.3, 2 Thess.2, Rev. 13, etc.)

- 2. What conditions would need to exist to bring those days about?*

Global unrest caused by global economic upheaval. And while we are not saying that these are those days, they will *look like* and *begin like* the times we are in.

Our purpose in calling attention to these potentialities is not to incite fear but to incite the fear of God.

III. So How Do We Survive Tough Times?

*A. Connect to the **Community**.*

- 1. The ‘community of saints’ has three parts to it. What are they?*

- **The saints who have gone before us.**
- **The saints present with us now.**
- **The saints who will follow in our footsteps.**

*B. Consecrate yourself to **Christ**.*

- 1. What do we mean by ‘consecration to Christ’?*

Following the example Jesus gives using the power Jesus gives.

- 2. What’s our part in this?*

To “fix our eyes” on Jesus by sitting at his feet and spending time with him daily.

C. *Commit to growing in Character.*

1. *“Endure hardship as discipline.” Does this mean that when I experience hardship that I am being punished for something wrong?*

No. Sometimes this is the case, but oftentimes hardship comes because life is hard and we suffer.

2. *What does it mean?*

When you boil it all down, there are only three ways you can react to hardship. You can turn *from* God. Get all angry at him. Have yourself a pout. Slam shut your Bible. Stop coming to church.

Or...you can turn to lawlessness. In your anger at the hardship, you can take it out on your wife or your children. You can take it out on yourself, through addiction, alcohol, drugs, suicide. You can take it out on your neighbors, on society. You can bet there's going to be a dramatic upswing in lawless behavior in coming days. Or...you can turn *to* God. You can say to God, “You know God, this really stinks what I'm going through now, but let's you and I make this a win-win. I believe you have the power to turn this around, and I believe you have the care for me to make into a better person through this hardship.”

IV. Final Thoughts