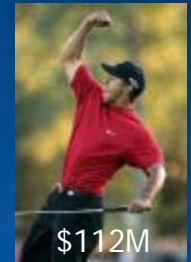


Presented by
Gerald R. Chester, Ph.D.
President, Strategies@Work, LLC

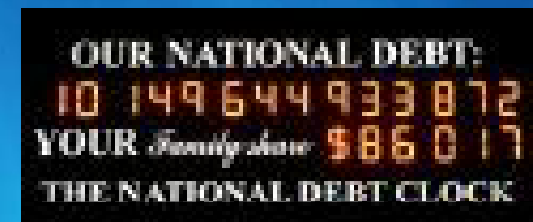
Techniques for Survival in Today's Uncertain World

Strategies@Work

Signs of the Times



1. **Presumption:** Wall Street, Auto Makers, Sam Zell, Neimans, Saks
2. **Greed:** Bernie Madoff's ponzi scheme: ~\$50B lost by wealthy investors
3. **Corruption:** Governor of Illinois seeks to sell Senate seat to highest bidder
4. **Self-serving:** increasing gap in compensation between management and workers
5. **Hedonism:** increasing pay for entertainers and athletes
6. **Idolatry:** Atheists assert their worldview
"there are no gods, no devils, no angels. Religion is but myth and superstition that hardens the heart and enslaves mind" displayed in the Washington State Capitol building
7. **Rejection of Scripture in public policy:** a President who does not look to Scripture for guidance on public policy
Social issues: homosexuality, abortion
Entitlements: health care
Debt: \$10T+



Signs of the Times

Energy costs

\$150



\$40

Bankruptcies



Up 31% (2007 – 2008)

Foreclosures



Up 81% (2007 – 2008)



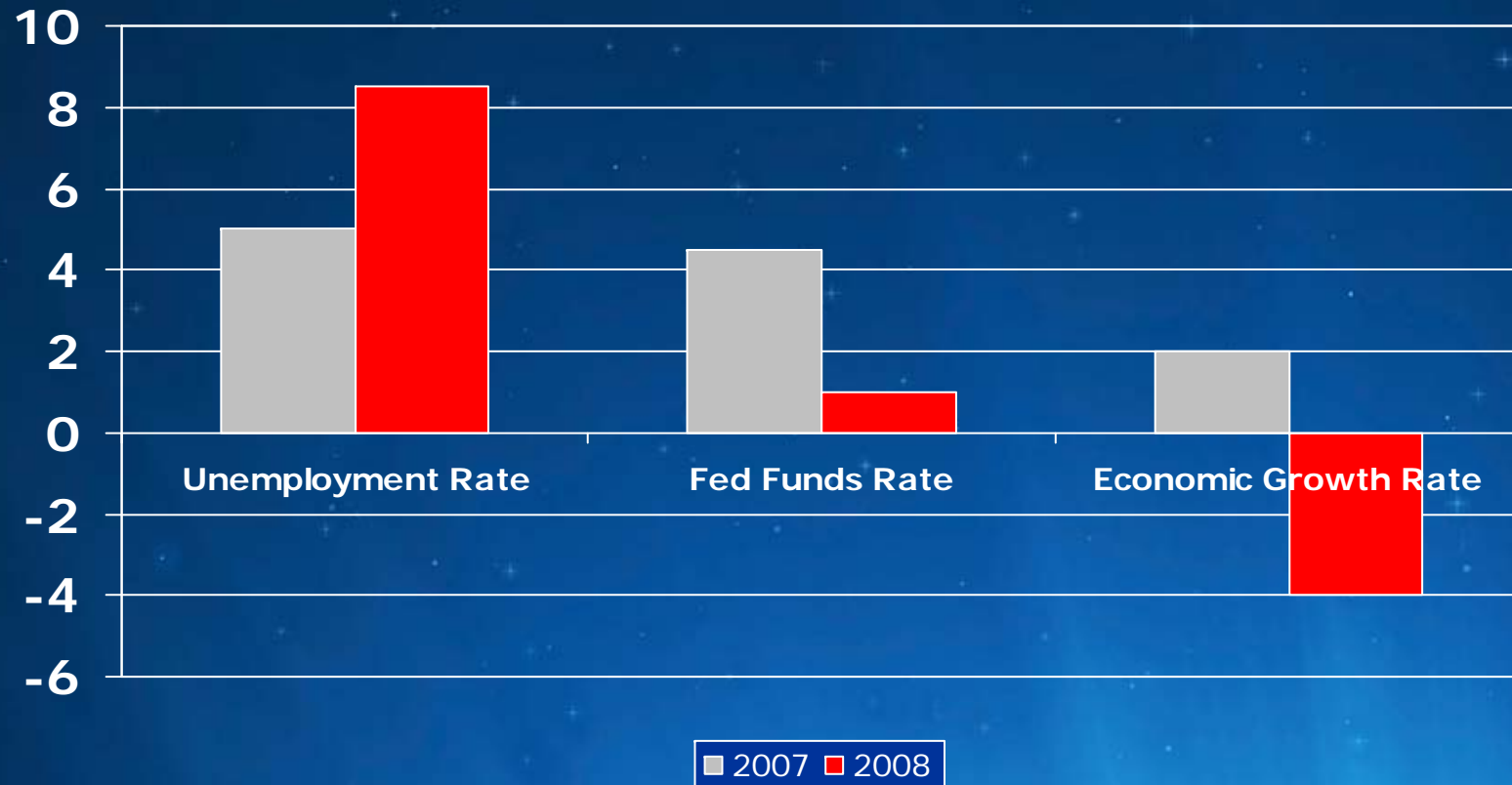
Stock market



Down 50% (2007 – 2008)

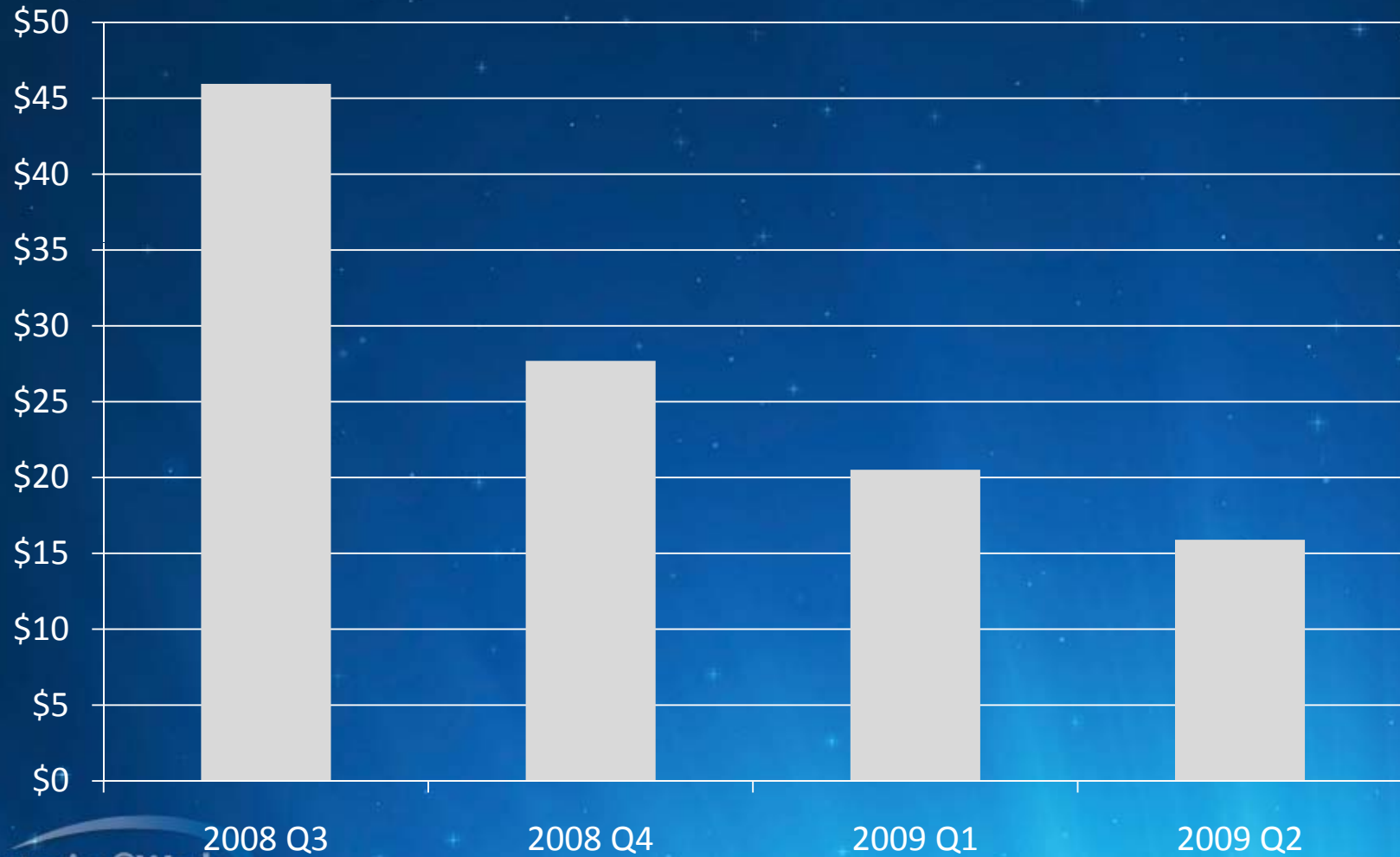


Signs of the Times

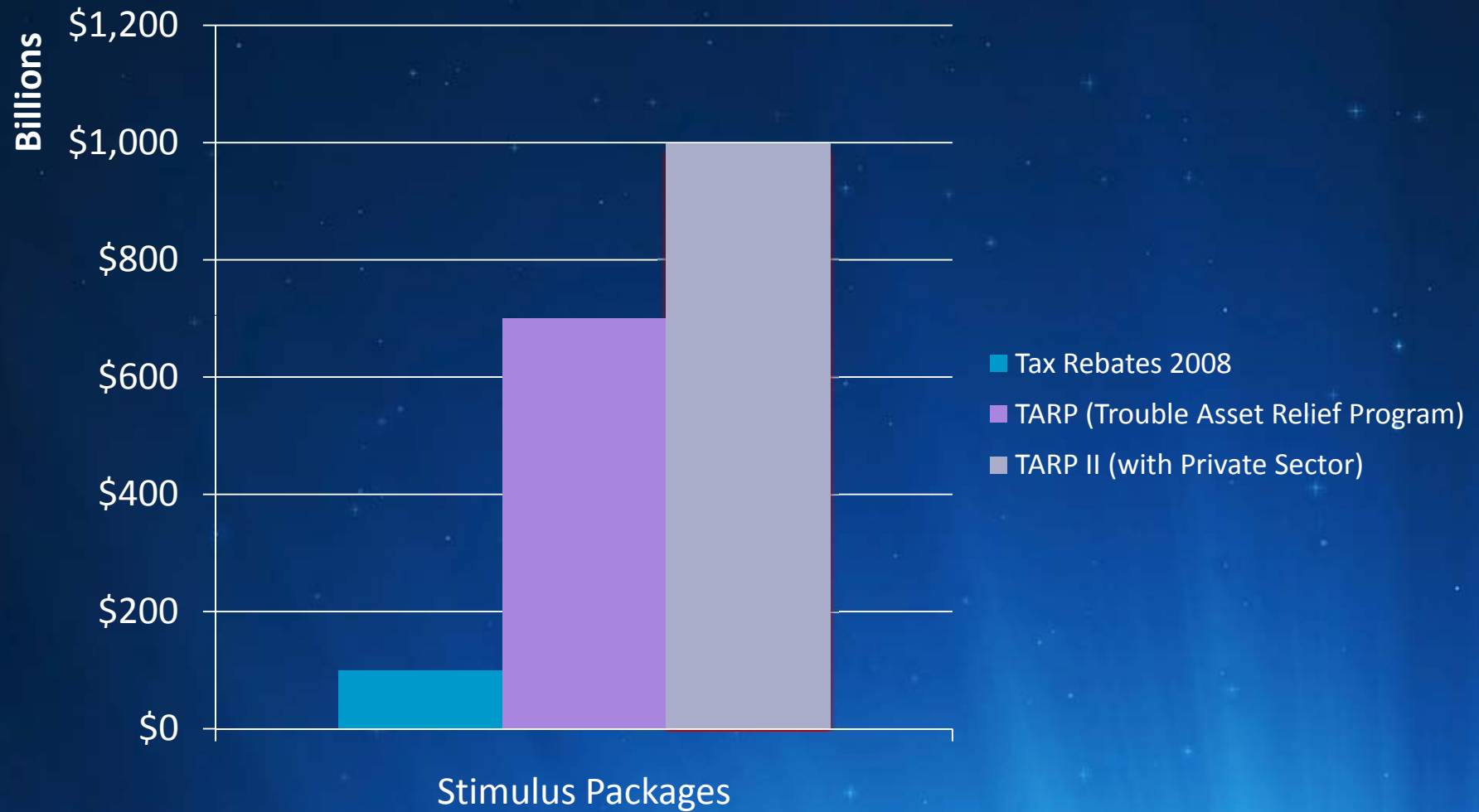


Signs of the Times

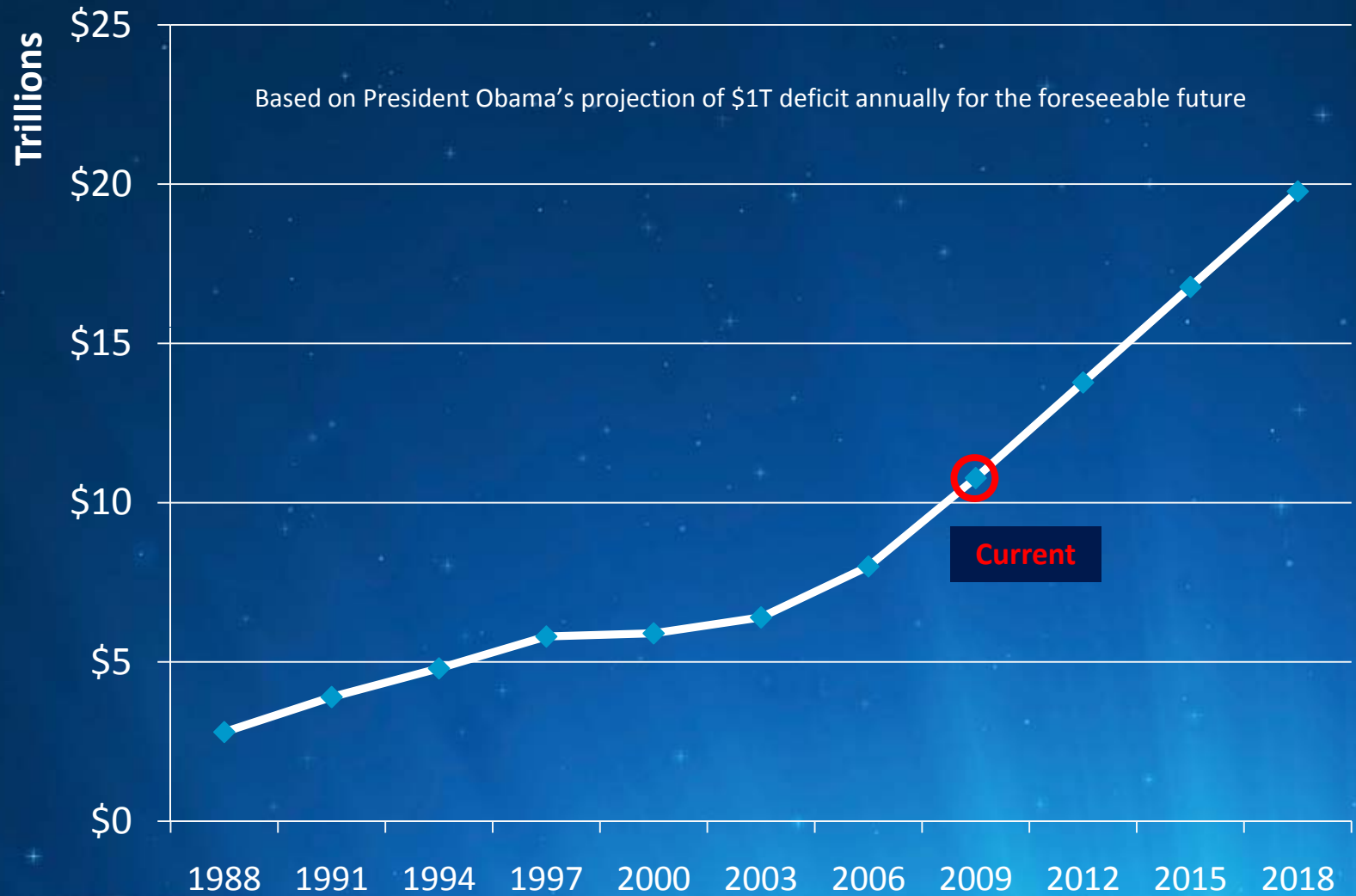
S&P 500 Earnings Per Share (TMT)



Signs of the Times



National Debt (Historical and Forecast)



How are we going to pay the federal debt?



Sin Amok

All of these signs are symptoms of sin.

Rejection of God => no moral compass

Keynesian economics

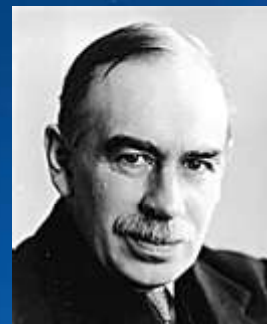
Mammon worship

Greed

Narcissism

Making up our own rules

Single generational living



Assumption About God

All of these symptoms are rooted in an assumption about God,
which is either:

There is no God

or

If there is a God, He is not involved in financial matters

What does the Bible say?



Sin Has Economic Consequences



Then they ^(Israel) will know that I am the LORD, when I have made the land a desolate waste because of all the detestable things they have done. . . . My people come to you ^(Ezekiel), as they usually do, and sit before you to listen to your words, but they do not put them into practice. With their mouths they express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain. Indeed, to them you are nothing more than one who sings love songs with a beautiful voice and plays an instrument well, for they hear your words but do not put them into practice. Ezekial 33:29-32 [NIV]

Government's Solution

Government's solution to sin amok is sin management – treating the symptoms, which will not the root issue will not produce sustained success.

Remedy #1: Money

Bailouts – investments in companies considered critical to the economy

Transfer bad (toxic) assets from the private sector to the public sector

Government spending => more debt

Egalitarianism – more taxes to redistribute the wealth

Remedy #2: More regulation (sinners overseeing sinners)

Remedy #3: Selective socialism => nationalizing industries, such as, banking

Remedy #4: Total socialism => regulation of everything



Techniques

Since the government's approach of sin management does not deal with the root issue, any success will only be temporary. (Remember the financial debacle of the 80s.)

So how do we live in light of the high probability of more problems?

Personal: don't fret (Matt 6:25-34), be thankful, forgive, eat right, exercise, rest

Money: be a steward (1 Cor 4:2,7), get out of debt, give, save, build reserves

Relationships: be interdependent (Prov 19:20), build friendships, stay married

Church: invest in spiritual food (Mat 4:4), stay connected, serve, love,

Work: work as unto the Lord (Col 3:17), don't leave a work assignment impulsively

Public Policy: vote a biblical worldview (Rom 12:1-2), consider running for office

By God's common grace, anyone can follow these techniques (Prov 17:28).



Stock Market

What about the stock market?

If you agree that sin has economic consequences:

If government can borrow money, the market will probably rally

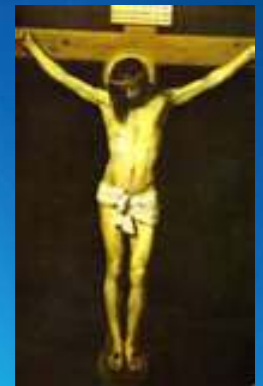
Ask the Lord for an exit strategy from the public markets

If government cannot borrow money

Prepare for economic calamity

As helpful as these techniques are, there is an even better technique:

build your life on Christ.



The Real Solution

The real solution is not sin management, but sin eradication.

Sin eradication comes from being a disciple of Christ.

Disciples practice all the techniques previously mentioned and more!

Disciples of Christ obey the teachings of Christ.

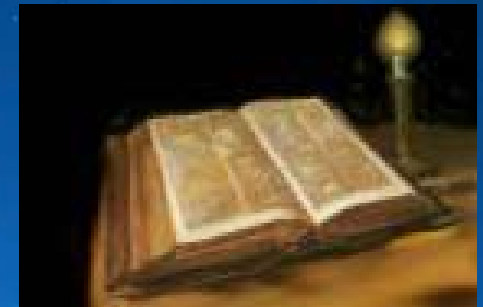
There are two key elements of obeying Christ:

- General obedience

 - Biblical worldview

- Specific obedience

 - Personal purpose



General Obedience



Every Christian is charged to obey the commands of Christ, that is, to live in accordance with a biblical worldview.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." MAT 28:18-20 [NIV]

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. MAT 7:24 [NIV]

Obedience to the commands of Christ means that we must grow up in Christ.



Growing in Christ

Categories of People

Growth Facilitators

Surrender



Maturity in Christ



Rebellion

Christ-centered
(unconsciously competent)

Growing in Christ
(consciously competent)

Baby Christians
(consciously incompetent)

Curious about Christ
(unconsciously incompetent)

Far from Christ
(unconsciously incompetent)

Incarnate a biblical worldview (Phil 1:21)

Develop spiritual disciplines (2 Peter 1)

Regeneration and baptism (John 3)

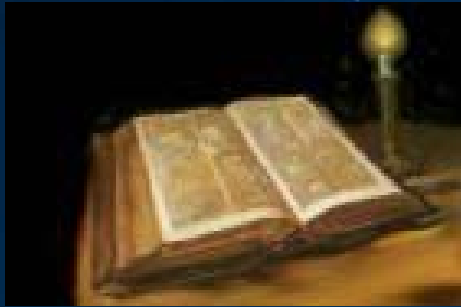
Reality check (Acts 9: Paul's conversion)



Clarity on Life Purpose



Specific Obedience



Specific obedience refers to the specific intent and purpose of God for your life – your life purpose.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. EPH 2:8-10 [NIV]

Strategic Life Alignment Seminar

Tip: The Strategic Life Alignment Seminar will provide you with biblical tools to discover your life purpose – the works that God prepared in advance for you to do.

Finding and fulfilling your life purpose is the greatest way to build certainty into your life in the midst of a very uncertain world.

What you learn:

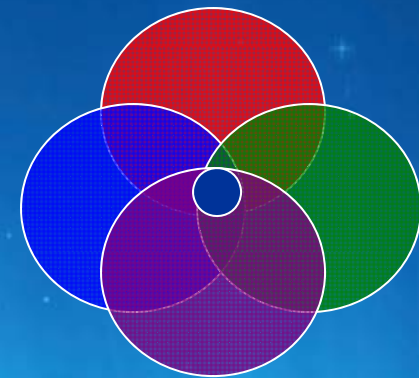
- The C4 principle

- How to hear God more clearly

- How to develop a life plan

- How to recognize blocks to your life purpose

- And more . . .



Strategic Life Alignment Seminar

The Strategic Life Alignment Seminar will provide you with biblical tools to discover your life purpose – the works that God prepared in advance for you to do.

What you will receive:

- Seven (7) weekly sessions: 1.5 hours per session

- Curriculum material delivered electronically

 - Workbook

 - Beyond Babel

 - Personality Profile

 - SLA Audio



Ready to Prosper in an Uncertain World?



Please attend the

Strategic Life Alignment Webinar

Dates: each Tuesday March 31st through May 12th

Time: 8:30PM to 10PM CDT

Fee: \$375 (includes personality profile, Beyond Babel, and workbook – all delivered electronically)



Q&A



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