

Winning in a Depression

Seven Critical Keys to Prosperity in Hard Times

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

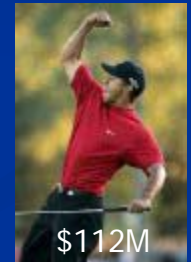
Signs of the Times



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



\$10M Bonus



\$112M

"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

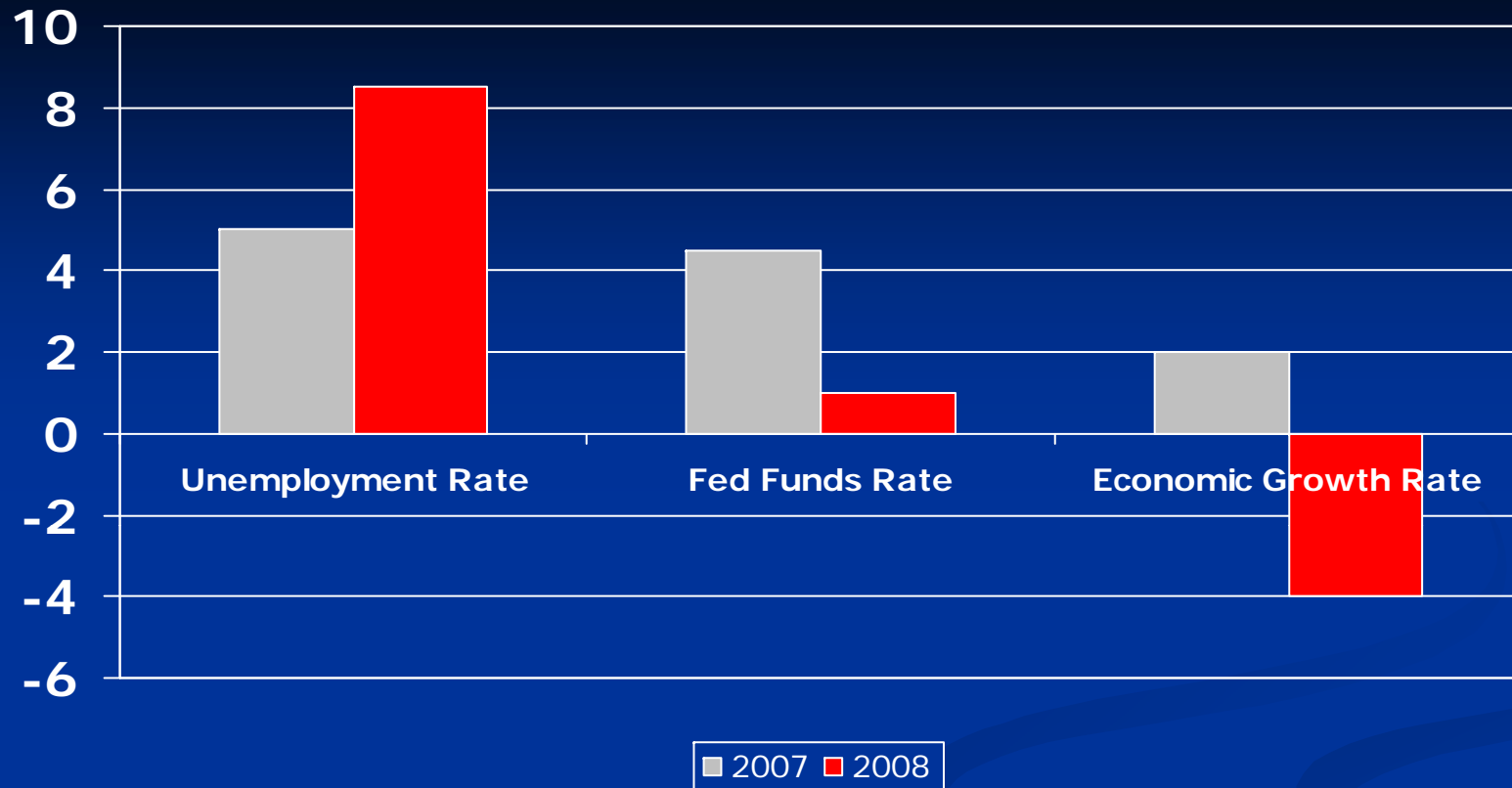
7. **No accountability:** a President who does not look to Scripture for guidance on public policy

Social issues: homosexuality, abortion

Entitlements: health care

Debt: \$10T+

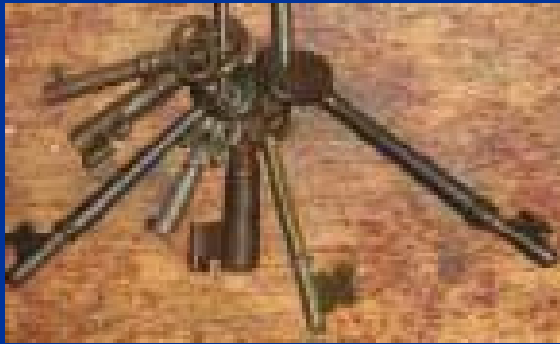




Sin Has Economic Consequences:

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. EZE 33:29-32 [NIV]

Seven Keys to Prosperity



1. _____ is not surprised.
2. _____ is in reality.
3. Don't worship _____.
4. The Lord is _____.
5. _____ as unto the Lord.
6. Keep your _____ open.
7. ASK

1. God Is Not Surprised

Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do. ISA 46:9-11 [NIV]



The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD. PRO 16:33 [NIV]

2. God Is In Reality

Then Job replied to the LORD: "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." JOB 42:1-6 [NIV]



3. The Real Risk: Idolatry

"You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. EXO 20:3-6 [NIV]



"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." LUK 16:13 [NIV]

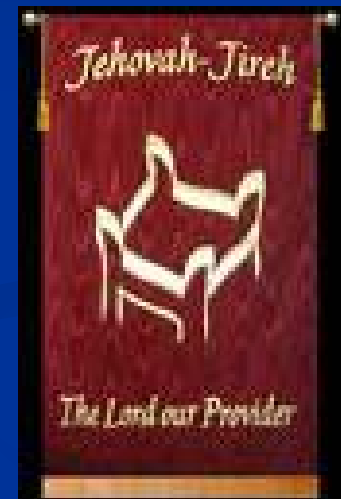


4. The Only Security Is In God

The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; PSA 24:1 [NIV]

'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the LORD Almighty. HAG 2:8 [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]



So Abraham called that place
The LORD Will Provide. . .
GEN 22:14 [NIV]

5. Work as unto the Lord

Perform with excellence exemplary of Christ.



This work performed *"in the name of the Lord Jesus"*
Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. COL 3:17 [NIV]

Work as if God is your boss, because He is!

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, COL 3:23 [NIV]

Remember the definition of success:

I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. JOH 17:4 [NIV]

6. Keep Your Options Open

As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things. Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well. ECC 11:5-6 [NIV]



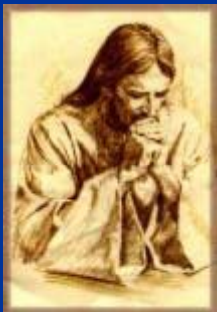
Don't burn your bridges

Don't presume that you hear God clearly.

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 1CO 13:12 [KJV]

7. Ask - Seek - Knock

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! MAT 7:7-11 [NIV]



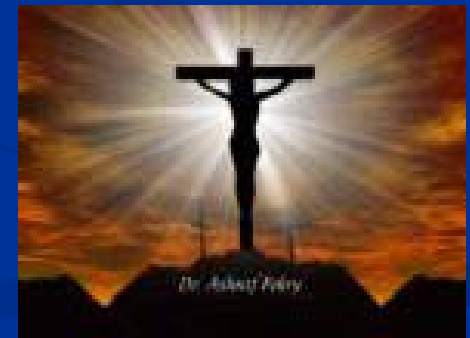
Seven Keys

1. God is not surprised.
2. God is in reality.
3. Don't worship idols.
4. The Lord is the only security.
5. Work as unto the Lord.
6. Keep your options open.
7. Ask – Seek - Knock

Principles taught in the
SLA Seminar

Christ is the Ultimate Key

My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. COL 2:2-3 [NIV]



Q&A

Of Your Family and Friends, Who Is Ready for SLA?

Please invite them to attend the

Strategic Life Alignment Tele-Seminar

scheduled for the first quarter of 2009.

More information coming soon by email!

