

THRIVING THROUGH THRIFT

Introduction – We live in a debt-oriented society that is not sustainable. It was based on the lie that we could build prosperity on a mountain of debt, waste, and excess. The results were the debt crisis beginning in 2008. The solution is thriving through thrift. This requires industry, frugality, and stewardship.

Romans 13:8

A. Let us see how we score on a questionnaire on thrift from the American Institute of American Values.

1. The word that is closest in meaning to thrift is:
 - a. thriving
 - b. saving
 - c. protecting
2. Being generous is:
 - a. the opposite of being thrifty
 - b. the same as being thrifty
 - c. a part of being thrifty
3. Borrowing money:
 - a. can be good if it increases your wealth in the future
 - b. is never a good idea
 - c. can be good if it is for something
4. Thrift focuses on:
 - a. earnings
 - b. planning
 - c. savings
 - d. all of the above
5. Thrift is:
 - a. a wise use of money
 - b. always buying the least expensive thing
 - c. getting as much money as possible
6. The opposite of thrift is:
 - a. selfishness
 - b. wasteful
 - c. generous
7. A thrifty person believes that what they have:
 - a. is my property to be used as I wish
 - b. is a gift to be used for myself and others
8. Over a lifetime a thrifty person will probably:
 - a. spend less than a person who is not thrifty
 - b. spend more than a person who is not thrifty
 - c. spend about the same as a person who is not thrifty

9. In order to make the economy grow, it is better for Americans to:
 - a. save more
 - b. spend more
10. If Americans became more thrifty, what difference would it make?
 - a. It would be good for the country.
 - b. It would not make much difference.
 - c. It would hurt the economy.

B. We have some misunderstandings about the kind of thrift that leads to thriving.

1 Corinthians 8:1-5

1. We falsely believe that one must be well-off financially before they can live generously.
2. We falsely believe that a person must live within their means; instead we must learn to live below our means.
3. The Corinthian congregation was wealthy compared to the Macedonians, but they were reluctant givers.
4. Our commitment to the Lord includes a disciplined use of our resources that allows us to share for the work of the Lord.

Conclusion – Most people either spend and borrow or the opposite extreme of hoarding their money. Godly people plan their spending and investments wisely and save so that they can invest and give generously.

Proverbs 11:24-25