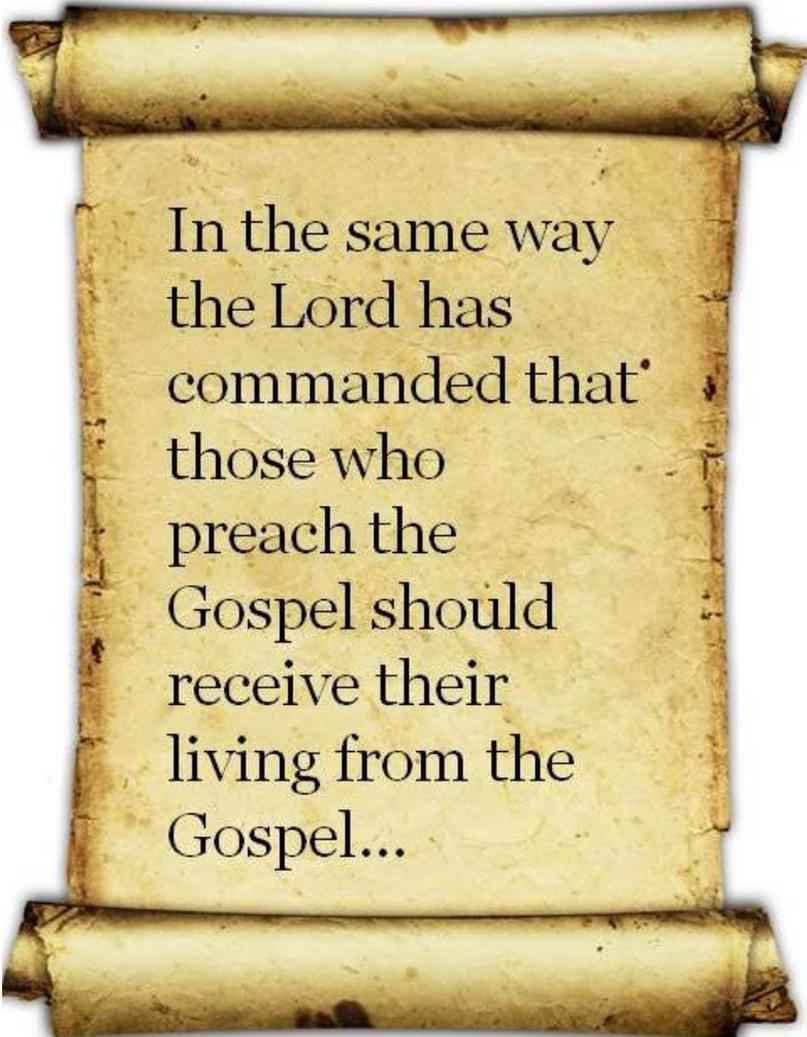




**HONOURING
LEADERS
FINANCIALLY**

BILL McMURDO

A scroll of aged parchment with text. The scroll is unrolled in the center, showing the text. The parchment is yellowed and has some dark spots, suggesting age. The text is written in a black, serif font. The scroll is set against a white background.

In the same way
the Lord has
commanded that
those who
preach the
Gospel should
receive their
living from the
Gospel...

FIRST THINGS FIRST

This little book had to be written.

I didn't want to write it but I cannot be disobedient and put it off any longer. So here it is.

Let me say right away that this is not a "Give to preachers and you will get rich" book.

I cover this distortion of the Prosperity Gospel in other books so I don't intend to go into it too deeply here. Suffice to say that God does not make His people rich because they give big or sacrificially to preachers. Your giving has nothing to do with you being rich.

You are not rich because of your giving. You are rich because of the cross.

**For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
2 CORINTHIANS 8:9 NKJV**

**Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
GALATIANS 3:13,14 NKJV**

These verses demonstrate that the curse of poverty was removed from us at the cross and that we were blessed and made rich in exchange.

There is no "getting rich" for the believer; there is simply manifesting the superabundance that already is ours because of the cross.

If you need to get rich, then you need to get born again. The new birth is your entry point into billionaire status.

So your super-duper offering to preachers who want to fleece you is not necessary in order to make you rich.

Don't get me wrong, God will multiply your money back to you and that is wonderful. But the law of sowing and reaping is not how God makes Christians rich. This law is used all the time by farmers and investors who never give God or Jesus a thought.

The law of sowing and reaping is a universal law – a *whosoever will* law. Evil people use it to great effect.

God makes believers rich at the cross, not by their giving. Yes, you can see what you sow multiplied back a hundredfold but if a pastor and a pornographer both invest £100 in shares in a company, they will both get the same return.

Let's just say the £100 investment grows to £1,000. Both the godly pastor and the vile pornographer will get the same return: £1,000.

The law of sowing and reaping works for everybody.

So what advantage does the believer have with this law? The answer might surprise you.

The advantage God gives the believer is not in the harvest. It is in the seed.

Look at this verse:-

**Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;
2 CORINTHIANS 9:10 KJV**

When we read this we see that God multiplies the seed we have sown. However, that is not necessarily the only way this verse can be interpreted.

Here it is, for example, in the NIV:-

**Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.
2 CORINTHIANS 9:10 NIV**

This version says something totally different. It says God will supply AND increase our store of seed. Multiplying seed sown and multiplying the store of seed are two different things.

The Lexham English Bible puts it this way:-

**Now the one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will provide and multiply your seed, and will cause the harvest of your righteousness to grow,
2 CORINTHIANS 9:10 LEB**

The World English Bible says it like this:-

**Now may he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, supply and multiply your seed for sowing, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;
2 CORINTHIANS 9:9,10 WEB**

This phrase "**SUPPLY AND MULTIPLY YOUR SEED FOR SOWING**" is also used in the New Heart English Bible. This means that He multiplies your seed BEFORE YOU SOW IT!!!

He supplies and multiplies your seed FOR sowing. This is a massive difference. In other words, before you take advantage of the law of seedtime and harvest, He gives you plenty of seed to sow! God multiplies your seed BEFORE you have your seed multiplied by the law of seedtime-harvest. This is exponential multiplication. The Christian, then, is made rich PRIOR to giving, not as a result of giving. This is God's order.

This is borne out by the preceding verses in 2 Corinthians chapter 9.

Verse 6 says that he who sows sparingly will reap sparingly and he who sows bountifully will reap bountifully. This verse is often used to beat Christians up with and make them feel guilty about sowing small seeds.

But it is simply an observation by Paul that the more you sow, the more you will reap. It isn't and was never intended to be a verse used to extort more money out of people.

Verse 8 tells us that God is able to make favour abound to us so that WE HAVE ALL SUFFICIENCY IN ALL THINGS. Note that our giving doesn't get us to this state – it is grace alone.

THEN we can abound to every good work.

Not give a little to every good work but ABOUND.

In other words, before we ever get to giving, we have a superabundance of seed. Why? Because God multiplies our seed BEFORE we sow.

What that means is that, in terms of our pastor and pornographer analogy, when the pornographer is investing £100 in good stock, the pastor has £1,000 to invest!

God is in the business of multiplying seed FOR SOWING.

This is the God advantage the believer has.

Jesus taught two parables about stewardship – the parable of the minas and the parable of the talents.

In these parables, stewards were given minas in one story and talents in the other and were expected to multiply these sums. We could say it like this: They were given seeds to sow.

In modern day terms a mina is worth about £7,000 - £8,500 and a talent is 60 minas!

You will see from this small study so far that God doesn't want us eking out an existence and playing with pennies.

The Lord wants His people to walk in economic dominion and to do this we need to be seriously funded.

God's purpose for those in full-time ministry is to be funded by those who are functioning mightily in the financial realm and plundering the mammon system.

The key lesson we must all learn is that we do not give to get rich. We give because we ARE rich.

The realisation of this will bring a paradigm shift in the thinking and experience of God's people.

And heal the hurts caused by those who use prosperity to fleece the sheep.

HONOUR WHERE IT IS DUE

It's time to state plainly to believers that it is incumbent upon them to financially honour their man of God.

Yes, I know that term is a bit Old Testament and we are all men and women of God and we are all ministers of the New Covenant.

However, I am talking about giving financially to those in full-time ministry who feed us with the Word of God and labour in prayer and the Word for us.

In both the Old and New Covenant eras, it is the decent thing and the required thing to look after those called to minister to God's people.

One woman even built an extension to her home so that the prophet Elisha could have decent accommodation when he came to town:-

It fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where there was a prominent woman; and she persuaded him to eat bread. So it was, that as often as he passed by, he turned in there to eat bread.

She said to her husband, "See now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God, that passes by us continually. Please let us make a little room on the wall. Let us set for him there a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp stand. It shall be, when he comes to us, that he shall turn in there."

2 KINGS 4:8-10 NHEBYSE

This woman always made sure Elisha ate well and she went even further to honour her man of God.

Her heart was to bless Elisha by doing two things: making sure he was comfortable and taken care of when he visited and even more important – bestowing upon the man of God the honour due an important dignitary.

This wealthy woman honoured the ministry and anointing upon Elisha's life and by treating him as a VIP she demonstrated to others the importance of Elisha's office.

Honouring those who are entrusted with the ministry of God's Word is an essential part of the culture of honour we are required to walk in and model in these times.

I would even go so far as to say that the Lord wants us to get fanatical and extreme in this.

The celebrity culture of the world is actually the counterfeit of the culture of honour that the Kingdom of God is bringing to earth. The world honours and venerates those who can kick a ball or sing about sex and violence more than it does those whom God has ordained to preach the Word of Life.

If the world does not honour God's ministers, then it is up to the church to show preachers the respect due. In fact, showing those called to ministry this respect is a vital witness to people of the importance of the message the ministers bring.

By showing massive respect to and financially honouring those who preach for a living, we demonstrate to this world and the spirit world how important God and His Word are to us.

There is no higher or more noble calling than to be engaged in the ministry of preaching God's precious Word. It is the most glorious of vocations and the most honourable of professions. To be entrusted as the steward and oracle of God's message to mankind is the most sacred of responsibilities.

This should be reflected in how we treat those who are ministers of the Word.

It should be the heart of every believer that their pastor or mentor receive superabundant financial blessing. You should want your man of God to drive the best car in town, to live in the biggest house and to wear the finest clothes. And you should pay them handsomely to this end.

Your leaders in the Lord should be fabulously rewarded and you should do everything you can to see that they are.

God should not have to use other means to fund preachers – every Christian should accept it is their holy duty and responsibility to feed the full-time ministry with material plenty as they feed the flock with spiritual food.

I remember one preacher saying he wouldn't continue teaching during a fabulous message until people started honouring him with their material wealth. This particular man was a bold guy and I certainly wouldn't emulate his plain-speaking but he was scripturally on solid ground.

We can see this in Paul's letter to the Corinthian assembly:

If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?

1 CORINTHIANS 9:11 NIV

Ministers have a right to expect financial support from those they minister to. It is a right backed up by the command of God Himself.

Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar?

In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

1 CORINTHIANS 9: 13,14

We are not talking about a great idea or a reasonable suggestion. God's system is very simple and straightforward: He gives certain people called to full-time ministry His Word for your life. You respond by weighing these people in financially. And you are not to be stingy about it.

I remember one time I was preaching and I took up a collection as usual. After the meeting I counted the offering and it was a standard offering for that meeting. I needed more to cover a particular bill but I put the offering money in my case and went home.

The next day I went to get the offering and there was another wad of money in it which was the same amount as the offering. In other words, there was twice the money as the night before!

It was a miracle and it covered the bill I needed to pay. I asked the Lord why He had done this and He replied:-

Let the elders who lead well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the Word and doctrine.

1 TIMOTHY 5:17 VW

The Lord explained to me that since I had preached well the previous night, He had seen to it I was paid double the normal offering.

This was an exciting miracle of supply but the sad thing is that there needed to be a miracle. And even sadder is that many of

the Lord's servants are paid a pittance by those they are called to minister to.

I am not going to get in to tithing here. This is not baby teaching on tithing. Chucking your tenth into the bucket is not what God requires of you, my friend.

If your pastor has fed you with spiritual meat that has blessed your inner man, helped save and restore your marriage, kept you from disaster and prospered you mightily, don't you have it in your heart to desire that he/she will never come close to lacking any good thing but on the contrary, that they would be the most blessed person in your community?

You should never be happy until your pastor is driving the swankiest car in your town and living in a mansion.

It really should be our heart, brothers and sisters, that we want to see those who lead us in the Lord living like kings and treated with the utmost respect.

I am not talking about creating a clergy class – not even remotely. But you can honour those who are in full-time ministry without putting them on pedestals.

When we demonstrate our respect for those called to lead us – those who steward the Word and deliver it to us - then we witness to the world how important that Word is.

You need to make your leaders wealthy. This removes any care and distraction from them, allowing them to focus on being vessels that carry and deliver the message of God and the power of God to those who sit under their ministry.

It also helps give leaders a testimony of great provision.

That can then be used to inspire faith for others that they can receive provision.

Remember that Jesus inspired twelve men to leave behind well-paid professions to follow Him and looked after their material needs. There is also the possibility that the 70 were funded by the Jesus travelling band.

We must start to develop a mindset and culture that being in the full-time preaching ministry is BY DEFINITION the entrance into financial superabundance.

This will all work on a principle that every believer should be walking in – the principle that if you help to make someone else's dream come true, God will make YOUR dream come true.

Part of your job as a Christian is to see that those who are leaders over you in the Lord live in luxury and abundance.

If you make preachers rich, they will lead you into superabundance.

Accept this and walk in it.

One more thing. If your pastor is salaried this does not mean you should just forget this message – far from it.

Salaried or not, you should look to bless your pastor above and beyond.

PAYING YOUR DUES

So what is the difference between saying that if you make preachers rich they will lead you into superabundance and the tired old "prosperity gospel" that peddles something similar?

The answer is that there is no extortion or con going on.

There's no "Send your seed NOW and you will get Abraham's blessing!"

The truth is, if you never give a penny to preachers you are already rich. You already have Abraham's blessing. You are already blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ.

You are not giving to preachers to get rich. You are doing it because you want your man or woman of God to be rich and happy. Your man or woman of God will then be able to function without worry or strain and can then be in peak condition to minister to you.

You should be prospering because of the spiritual meat being fed to you by your leaders. If not, don't cut their pay! Change leaders! Find someone whose ministry impacts your life for the better.

Any good preacher should be happy to be paid on results.

By that I mean they should be happy to be paid on merit i.e. the quality of their message. The Apostle Paul put it in very plain terms: Who feeds a flock and doesn't drink of the milk of the flock? (1 Cor. 9:7)

As we have seen, leaders who preach well should get at least double pay.

In plain terms, if you are getting your socks blessed off by your man or woman of God, it's time to dig deep and bung them mightily!

If you are a Christian, you are now a member of a club where you must pay your dues.

Two things are required of you. You must avail yourself of favour until you are financially loaded. Then you must liberally give to every good work out of that abundance. (see 2 Cor 9:8)

Of course, you don't have to wait until you are Bill Gates to start giving. You recognize that one of the key ways God makes favour abound to you is through your mentors and leaders - so you bless the hand that feeds you. You make it happen for those leaders so that God will make it happen for you.

This is a million miles from the prosperity gospel so-called because you are initiating it, not some cash-hungry preacher selling blessings.

You can't buy blessings; they are not for sale.

You don't need to buy them, they are yours already. What you need to learn is how to see them manifest so you can walk in them. This is what good leaders will teach you.

This all hinges upon the honour system. You pay preachers not because they are selling something. You pay them tribute money out of honour. You weigh them in financially or with material blessings purely to honour their ministry to you and others.

How is this done? Do you always do it through the offering system?

I recommend you pay your offerings as normal but you can directly bless your pastor or leader by giving them money directly on top of your offerings. If they refuse it and/or direct you to put it in the offering bag, that's fine. You are at liberty then to do so or not.

If they tell you they will be putting it in the offering, that is up to them. You have given it to them in the Lord to honour them and you can say so.

It is important you make this distinction, particularly in some churches where the offering goes to a central HQ.

I thank God that He taught me from a very early stage in my walk with Him that leaders are to be honoured in this way.

It is vital that every believer grasp this truth, that paying full-time ministers is not the responsibility of the board of elders or the church headquarters.

It is the job of every one of us.

GOD'S LEADERS ARE RICH

God's leaders being rich is the biblical norm.

Abraham was very rich in cattle, silver and gold – the commodities God identifies as His own. (see Genesis 13:2; Psalm 50:10; Haggai 2:8)

Isaac and Jacob were also rich men.

Joseph was the Prime Minister of Egypt and enjoyed awesome wealth.

David plundered many heathen nations and gave billions toward the building of the Temple from his personal wealth. Many leaders in his administration gave massive sums to the same project.

Solomon was the richest man in the world under the Old Covenant paradigm.

There is strong evidence both biblically and from history that Jesus was the richest Man on earth during His time on this planet. See my book ***Jesus: Millionaire*** if you are interested in exploring this fascinating subject further.

As Ed Silvoso brings out in his wonderful book ***Anointed For Business***, Paul's business of tentmaking was not an odd job affair making two-pole Boy Scout tents. Tentmaking was a lucrative profession making sophisticated luxurious mobile dwellings for very wealthy travelers.

It is evident that Paul came from a very wealthy family and his protégé Timothy is regarded by scholars as being a scion of British royalty.

Many if not all of the apostles were prosperous businessmen and you can be sure that Jesus' offer to follow Him was not an abandonment by them of family responsibilities to become wandering hoboos. Clearly Jesus offered them a better deal than any they had going for them at that time.

The Master Himself was massively funded at an early age by emissaries from the mighty Parthian empire who regarded Him as the rightful heir to the Arsacid throne. The enormous caravan bearing gifts for the infant Jesus was so large it terrified the city of Jerusalem who likely thought it to be an invading force.

Jesus taught parables that encouraged trade and mentioned stewards who were entrusted with very large sums of money. His ministry was supported by wealthy women of high rank in the Establishment of Jerusalem.

It's also interesting to consider that many in the Church today lament the lack of power and tell us we need to go back to Early Church practices to get it.

Yet who practices this today? -

Nor was there anyone needy among them; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and placed them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

ACTS 4:34,35 VW

The preceding verse says that they had great power and great favour was upon them but look at why – they were bringing their wealth to their leaders and entrusting them with it.

This isn't throwing 50p into the bag, friend.

This is real Christianity in action.

Yes, the apostles re-distributed it to eradicate poverty in their midst but clearly they themselves were being looked after as we can see from this passage:

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a murmuring against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily service.

Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, It is not desirable that we should leave the Word of God and serve tables.

Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this need; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word.

ACTS 6:1-4 VW

The apostles were able to put aside all menial work and concentrate on the full-time ministry of prayer and the Word. Evidently this meant they were being funded to do this work.

Paul clearly identified what would be the considered norm when he told the Corinthian ekklesia that "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should receive their living from the Gospel." (1 Cor. 9:14) In reference to this, he said it was a right of those in the full-time ministry to expect to be funded in this way.

Biblically speaking, serving God and poverty are like oil and water – no amount of trying to mix them will work.

WHAT MUST HAPPEN

It is time to eradicate forever the notion and mindset that being a servant of God is to live either within or just above the poverty line.

Serving God in full-time ministry – what we would call pulpit ministry – is the noblest of professions and the highest of callings. As such any and all who do it should be handsomely compensated and royally blessed.

If you see your pastor has an old mobile phone, buy him a new one and pay his phone bills.

If your pastor is using an old PC, take up an offering and get him an iPad.

If he is driving an old clunker, get him some decent wheels.

Take your pastor to a good tailor and kit him out.

When he preaches a good message, get your wallet out and fill his hand with money.

Don't wait for this culture of honour to be prevalent before you act – start the culture yourself.

Get fanatical about blessing your man or woman of God. And God will show Himself fanatical about serving you.

This will work for you even if you don't like certain ministers. I remember once I was in a meeting listening to a preacher I didn't have much time for. I only had about £1.38 on me so I put it in the offering and told the Lord I was believing for a thousandfold return.

That night someone chapped my door and gave me £1,000 in cash. The rest came in over the next few days.

The point is that this system is not built on emotions or opinions or feelings.

Sadly, some have tried to pollute the system by trying to sell the blessings.

You can't pollute the system, neither can you manipulate it. You can only counterfeit it.

The system works and it is this simple:

If you honour financially those who teach you in the Lord, God will honour and bless you.

You are actually already blessed so it is incumbent upon you to look after those who feed you spiritually.

You don't bless leaders to get a blessing – you bless them to be a blessing.

And when you are in that frame of mind, God just keeps blessing you back

It all starts by saying: "I want my pastor/preacher/leader to be rich."

Then committing to make it happen.

The tightwads and religious people may oppose you but you don't serve them, you serve Christ.

Tell your pastor you are believing God for him/her to be superabundantly blessed and you are committed to making it happen.

They might never tell you but that is exactly what they need from those God has called them to minister to.

It is vital that Christians transit from the hit-and-miss realms of prosperity teaching and come into the Promised Land of the Superabundance Message.

This includes the revelation of this book – that believers are divinely mandated to honour financially those in full-time ministry by becoming fanatics about doing so.

A PROPHECY

We are entering a new paradigm at this time.

This will see a culture of honour replace the mammon system as the world economy.

It will be the age of the super-rich preacher when mankind recognizes the importance of the preaching and teaching of God's Word. In such an age those called to this wonderful work will rightly be recognized and rewarded accordingly.

We are all called to plant this Kingdom Age and we can lay the foundations now by financially honouring those in the fivefold ministry.

It is only by the unleashing of this fivefold ministry that the Perfect Man can come forth, that corporate expression of the Body walking in the fullness of Christ.

Tomorrow's billionaires will be those preachers and teachers who handle the word of truth without deceit or avarice. They will explode into realms of wealth undreamed of.

Then all men will see that man was created to live not by bread alone but by the substance-packed Word of the Living God.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bill McMurdo is a pastor and itinerant preacher who teaches believers to walk in superabundant supply and financial provision. He is the author of several books on the subject, including GET RICH NOW! JESUS MILLIONAIRE and THE BOOK OF WEALTH. Bill has seen financial miracles and breakthroughs and shows people how to manifest God's financial blessings in their lives.

You can contact Bill by the following methods:

Write:

WILLIAM McMURDO, PO BOX 14993, GLASGOW G71 6WE
SCOTLAND, UK

Email:

thebillionaire@mail.com

