

Presentation on 100 Huntley Street February 9: Are you in a financial COMA?

Today I am asking you to consider if you are in a financial **COMA**. You are in a financial COMA if Jesus Christ is NOT your answer to any of these questions:

1. Who **C**ontrols your life?
2. Who **O**wns the money and possessions you use?
3. For whom do you **M**anage them?
4. To whom are you **A**ccountable?

Let's look at the first item, **Control**. One Oxford dictionary control definition is control is "the power of directing."

Do you have the "power of directing" your life? Do you believe you control daily events, your income level, and next week's agenda? Think again if you think you do. Our problem is we don't know what's ahead, but we act like we do.

We think the future will resemble today so we borrow and plan to repay the debt. But, as a former colleague would say, the future isn't what it used to be! Things turn out differently; we can't repay our debts, so we become dejected, and borrow even more.

Apostle James puts it this way in James 4:13-15:

James 4:13-15

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, *you ought to say*, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

An essential foundation for our money matters trip is to realize God is in control. We may not give Him control of our lives, but still He controls the universe. He is working around each person. He never stops working. While David, as a young lad, was tending his dad's sheep, God was working and wanted him as Israel's king. This wasn't David's plan. He merely listened and responded to God's call! Similarly, God may be working in your life today, but *hurry sickness* is distracting you, so you can't hear His voice. You are rushing about trying to direct and control events that you can't control!

Pause; listen, so you may hear Jesus' voice; then respond to Him. He created you! He loves you and He invites you into a personal relationship. We read in **1 Timothy 2:3-6 (NASB)**:

... God our Savior ... desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all...

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If you don't know Jesus as personal Lord and Savior, I urge you right where you are to give your life to Him and settle this control issue now. What do you have to lose? You know you have not been able to do it on your own. Call the prayer lines that you see on the screen.

One effect of not giving control to Christ is we think we can fix problems on our own. For example, you may be in debt and discussing refinancing, consolidating loans, fixing bad credit, or other finance-related action. But not one of these will provide a cure. They focus on symptoms only. You need to look at your attitude, your behavior, and your source of choices and ask Jesus to show you the way forward. **Jesus has the answer, but you have the question!** Did you get that? Jesus is waiting on your call!

Folks, previously we saw we need the **right attitude** to react correctly to seductive advertising. This attitude is available but only if we let Christ control our lives.

Jesus is calling you now, right where you are. Give Him control of every area of your life. This is the most important step toward managing your needs and wants; it's essential to crucify your greed nature, and eliminate money related stress. Please deal with this control issue now!

Next time we look at the other parts of the COMA.

God bless and remember Jesus loves you so much He died for you.