

Greed Brings Downfall

The world financial markets are in the midst of the greatest crisis since the Great Depression. Fear grips many people – fear of bank failure, fear of the inability to borrow needed cash, fear of foreclosure, fear of losing jobs.

What caused all of this to happen? I believe the root cause is greed. Congress turned a blind eye to warning signs at Freddie and Fannie, in part because they enjoyed the sweetheart deals and the support they received from those firms and their leaders. Mortgage companies approved shaky loans – and charged fees accordingly. Homeowners bought homes more expensive than they could afford. Wall Street packaged and marketed these mortgages as securities, then sold them. Executive compensation at these firms soared. Everyone got rich – until the bubble burst. Greed brought us into this financial crisis.

Greed is a person's heart saying "It's all about me". But God says it's all about Him. He is sovereign. He is in charge. Isaiah 46:9-10 says "I am God, and there is no other...My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please".

Our sinful nature resists submitting to God's control. But God spells out the benefits of submitting. First, God knows us intimately. Psalm 139 says "O Lord, you have searched me and You know me...You are familiar with all my ways". Next, God wants the best for you. Jeremiah 29:11 says " 'For I know the plans I have for you' says the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' ”.

Finally, God promises to provide what we need. One of God's Old Testament names is Jehovah Jireh, which means Provider. In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matt 6:25ff), He tells us we are much more valuable than birds and flowers, so how much more will God provide for us?

He gives us what is best for us, which may not be what our sinful nature wants. What is "the best" for us? To deepen our relationship with the One who gives us life, sustains us, and through the grace of Jesus' death and resurrection, ultimately brings us home to heaven. If having a substantial nest egg causes us to rely on our money rather than God, then is having that nest egg really best for us?

With God in control, we are in the arms of the loving, caring Creator and Savior who knows what makes us tick, wants what's best for us, and promises to give us what we need. What more could we ask for?

Stephen Werner is an Investment Advisor Representative and president of Covenant Financial Planning. He has been in the financial advisory and insurance industry for over 20 years, and holds securities and insurance licenses in several states.

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