

On The Frontier

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

All Sufficiency In All Things

by Linus A. Mathis III

In this fast paced world it seems everyone has a demand to make of us. Even our Nation (a government of, by and for the people) taxes us. According to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, to tax is: to make onerous [burdensome, exhausting] and rigorous demands upon. Simply put, a tax is a *heavy demand*. It's appropriate that the revenues we pay are called taxes. How well they fit with all of life on this tired old planet. We've all felt the burden of taxes. Haven't we?

Yet, the taxes on our incomes comprise only a small part of the weight placed upon us. And you know as well as I, the bill of lading for our daily hardships would be far too extensive to list here. We are "taxed" in many ways and by numerous means. Aren't we? As if that weren't enough, more often than not, the pressures of life seem to randomly multiply. Does the phrase, "when it rains it pours," ring a bell?

Every demand has a requirement. When the requirement is met the weight is lifted. The obligation of income tax is satisfied by paying a given amount of money. However, this ordeal repeats itself annually or even quarterly. There's also the matter of household bills. The demands of which have been steadily increasing for a number of years now. Each month they must be satisfied anew. Month after month,

year after year. An endless array of monetary demands are placed upon each of us every day of our lives with no let up in sight. No wonder money is such a sought after commodity! We all need gobs of it to drop into the black hole we call the cost of living. More money, more money, more money. Look at what God thinks of money:

Proverbs 23:5

Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

That seems to sum up my relationship with the stuff. How about yours? It makes me wonder how any of us could set our eyes upon that which is not. Which, as you know, is NEVER sufficient. Just NEVER! Add inflation to worldliness and a five dollar egg seems cheap. Maybe you remember when one gallon of gasoline cost less than a loaf of bread. I do. I also remember going to the movies for a quarter and I'm not that old. When I graduated high school a man making \$200.00 a week could own his own house, a new car AND send two kids to college. Does that mean that there were no pressures in the "good old days?" No, no a thousand times no. That man had demands placed upon him daily just like us. Of course as this old world winds down (in anticipation of Christ's Return) things will become more and more pressing. And man exacerbates this by rejecting God and His Word. But, if you read your Bible, you know that a few things must happen in this

current heaven and earth before they're made new.

What's the answer then? Are we going to be less and less capable of dealing with the rigors of life? Is this rapidly increasing trend toward irreverence so pervasive that you and I will not be able to lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty? Will the flood of evil overwhelm us so that we drown in its depths? Will the cost of living become so high that we won't be able to meet its demands? Will we run out of the wherewithal to purchase food, clothing and shelter? NO! NEVER!!! Because our sufficiency is of God and not ourselves. Among other things He has accepted us in His Son.

Ephesians 1:3-7

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Having predestinated [foreordained] us unto the adoption [sonship] of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved [Christ].

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness

of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

We stand without blame before God in love. He foreordained us to be His own. He has made us accepted for Christ has redeemed us by his blood. Well, hallelujah!!! If we are sufficient enough to stand before God as acceptable, then we are sufficient! You can't get anymore qualified. He has made us abundantly ample for anything. And the job He did is more than adequate to stand throughout eternity. With or without inflation! It was more than plentiful in the first century and it will be exceedingly more than bountiful in the twenty first.

II Peter 1:2-4

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Please note that grace and peace are **MULTIPLIED** through the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. Where do we get this knowledge? The Bible. The written Word of God is the **ONLY** place where you can get the knowledge of God. You aren't going to get the knowledge of God from the study of your portfolio. That will not multiply grace and peace unto you. But it may

get you depressed. Which would you prefer?

Notice also that His divine power has already given us all things that pertain to life and godliness. What then do we lack? Nothing!

II Corinthians 3:5

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

We aren't sufficient because we have made ourselves that way. Being a self-made man will never be enough to measure up to this type of sufficiency. **NO**. Our sufficiency is of God. That's why it's timeless. The self-made man of yesteryear would be a flop today. Technology and environment would "bull rush" him and overwhelm him in a heart beat. But the spiritual man is abundantly able to meet any challenge because his sufficiency is of God. If God makes you sufficient baby, you are sufficient. We simply need to keep the record straight and not forget where our ability comes from. If you're not careful, the world will get you to thinking that the important abilities are the material ones.

Colossians 2:8-10

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

The fulness of God dwells in Christ

and we are complete in him. What then do we lack? If we are complete, then we are complete. There's nothing that can make us incomplete and nothing that can challenge our completeness to the end that we are insufficient. All that we have, all that we are, is of God. Therefore, we are complete, we are sufficient.

Furthermore, nothing can hold us back or bind us.

Colossians 1:12,13

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet [adequate] to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Who hath delivered [rescued] us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

The power of darkness holds no rights over you. You have been delivered from darkness and its power. And God has made you adequate to share fully in the inheritance of the saints in light. What a God!

God's Will regarding our lives is evidently declared throughout His Word.

III John 2

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

This is something God wishes for us above **ALL** things. We need to get our wishes in agreement with His. We need not question His Will for our prosperity and health, His Word is clear.

Philippians 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Our God shall supply all of our needs. His ability to meet our needs is not limited by the economy, only by our believing. That which He says He desires for us is His Will. That which His Word says He's given us is ours. We need not beg for that which has been given to us, only receive it. When we thank Him for what's already available, our request is filled and comes into manifestation. Of course we should always be polite and respectful to the Father, but when we beg for things that are already given to us we debilitate ourselves. God isn't poor, stingy or cheap, He's wealthy and generous.

Psalms 50:10

For every beast of the forest is mine, *and* the cattle upon a thousand hills.

That's a lot of beef! Ask Father for some to take to market.

John 15:8

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Isn't that wonderful? It's a glory to God when we are fruitful. He loves it when His children are happy and blest.

Luke 12:32

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Years ago someone taught me about the "blank checks" of God's Word. There are ten of them. I'd like to list them for you now:

Matthew 21:22

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Matthew 18:19

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

John 11:22

But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give *it* thee.

John 14:13

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 14:14

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.

John 15:16

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

John 16:23

And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you.

I John 3:22

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

I John 5:14

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

I John 5:15

And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Each and every one of these promises is guaranteed by Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

As if that weren't enough God has made it available for each of us to enhance our sufficiency by yet another principle. Giving!

II Corinthians 9:7-11

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

(As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

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;)

Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth

through us thanksgiving to God.

Our God is good almost beyond belief. But His Word declares it of Him so we must believe it. He rewards us when we do.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

The world may say that you are not sufficient. But what does God's Word say? It doesn't matter what the situations in life may look like. We are sufficient because our sufficiency is of God. The Psalmist says it better than I.

Psalms 37:25

I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

When I learned of the ten blank checks in God's Word, I also learned this little poem. It has been many years and try though I may I'm unable to give credit to its author. Nonetheless, the truth reverberates mightily from this prose.

GOD'S BANK AIN'T BUSTED YET

The bank had closed, my earthly store had vanished from my hand. I felt that there was no sadder one than I in all the land

My washer woman too had lost her little mite with mine,
And she was singing as she hung the clothes upon the line.

How can you be so gay, I asked, your loss don't you regret?

Yes ma'am, but what's the use to fret, God's bank ain't busted yet.

I felt my burden lighter grow, her faith I seemed to share, in prayer
I went to God's great throne and laid my troubles there.

The sun burst from behind the clouds in golden splendor set.

I thank God for her simple words, "God's bank ain't busted yet."

And now I draw rich dividends, more than my hands can hold.
Of faith and love and hope and trust and peace of mind untold.

I thank the giver of it all but still I can't forget,
My washer woman's simple words, "God's bank ain't busted yet."

Oh weary ones upon life's road, when everything seems drear
And losses loom on every hand and skies seem not too clear,

Throw back your shoulders, lift your head and cease to chafe and fret.
Your dividends will be declared, "God's bank ain't busted yet!"

It's over twenty years since I learned this and the Word of God that worked so well for me then is the same Word of God that holy men of God spake when moved by holy spirit. It worked for Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, John, Paul and others. It was as effective for me when I first believed it as when it was first spoken thousands of years ago. And it's the same Word of God right now as it was then. God's bank ain't busted yet and you do have all sufficiency in all things because your sufficiency is of God.

The Counselor's Corner

With Rev. Linus A. Mathis III

Hidden In Plain View

I've worn a full face beard for most of my adult life. However, on occasion I'll remove everything but the moustache. After all, variety is the spice of life. This has become for me, a cycle of sorts. One I've repeated many times over the years, though most often I'm bearded. There's no rhyme or reason for it and certainly no schedule. I can be perfectly happy with an abundance of facial follicles for years and then abruptly decide to change. One morning, some twenty six years ago, as I prepared for work the desire to make this change came upon me. So, out came the razor and off came the beard. That day none of the people I came in contact with seemed to notice. On the surface this might not seem odd but I saw most of these folks daily. As I pondered this phenomenon I wondered why nobody missed my beard. I certainly did! What could be wrong? Finally someone said something! A man, that had seen me daily for 3 years, began gawking at me with a puzzled look on his face. "I can't understand," he said, "how you could have grown that moustache so fast." I was flabbergasted! But, I learned something. He may have looked at me daily but he never saw me. He never really paid attention. Life's like that. We can look at something daily but never really see it. Sometimes we need someone to point things out to us.

Recently legislature has been introduced which would make it legal to publicly display the Ten Commandments. Doesn't it seem odd that this should have ever become

illegal? How dare man make the presentation of God's Word unlawful? Nevertheless, that's exactly what our government did. Now we may again see these wonderful commandments of God back in our schools. I, for one, am all for it.

Arguably our Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches are based upon the Mosaic Law. A summation of which is found in the Ten Commandments. But is displaying them enough? Can we as parents expect our children to be obedient to something simply because we post it? Have you ever parked in a no parking zone without knowing it? I have! Yes, even when clearly marked. In fact, I would have remained ignorant had not a nice policeman pointed out the error of my ways. Why? Because I didn't see the signs. I may have looked at them, but I didn't see them. Once someone took a personal interest in me the signs became a glaring reality.

Consequently, if you want your child to be a principled Christian, you're going to have to do more than post the "rules." God does want His commandments plainly displayed but that's a mere fraction of what's required.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and

shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes [i.e. foremost in your mind].

And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Write them out and plainly display them yes, but they must be diligently taught as well. Honestly, if you don't teach your kids God's Word who will? Furthermore He said, talk about the Word when you sit in your house, walk in the street, go to bed and get up. Got the picture? The Word, the Word and nothing but the Word.

Notably, this passage is prefaced with, " ... love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." And carefully followed by, " ... these words, ... shall be in thine heart." That which you love you put in your heart. And if you love someone you pay attention to them.

As you can see, this is a daily job, one which every Christian parent should take seriously. The reward? Priceless! For when you raise your child this way, the decisions made by government will be of little consequence to their morality. God will work in your child's heart with His Word but you must put it there. He will do His part if you do yours. You must point out the significance of DOING the Word to your children. Or, they may look at the rules but never see them.

James 1:22-25

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

But he who looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

It's the *heart* that most needs the display of God's Word. What you write in your child's heart today will be with them all their life. Though the Commandments were first written in stone they were intended for the heart.

Deuteronomy 30:9,10

And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thy hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers:

If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, *and* if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul.

II Corinthians 3:3

Forasmuch as ye are manifestly

declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart.

Help your child to have a heart for God's Word by teaching it to them. Let the flag fly high in the castle of your heart for the King is in residence there!

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