

## **YAG RETREAT 2006**

**Theme: Money Matters**

**Venue: Changi Village Hotel**

**Date: 11-13 May 2006**

**Session #3**

### **7. Vanity... A grasping of the wind**

**Ecclesiastes 2:4-11**

a) Landed property

Ecclesiastes 2:4

b) Vineyards/Gardens/Orchards

Ecclesiastes 2:5

c) Herds/flocks

Ecclesiastes 2:7

d) Silver, gold, treasures

Ecclesiastes 2:8

e) Staff of servants

Ecclesiastes 2:7, 8

f) Cultivated cultural/musical interest

Ecclesiastes 2:8

*"Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done*

*And on the labour in which I had toiled;*

*And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind"*

*Ecclesiastes 2:11*

*(Cf. Ecclesiastes)*

### **8. Sense of Frustration**

a) Distress

b) Leaving it all behind

c) Uncertain as to how posterity will appreciate their inheritance

*"Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressful to me, for all is vanity and grasping for the wind"*

*Ecclesiastes 2:17*

*"Then I hated all my labour in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me,*

*And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labour in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun."*

*Ecclesiastes 2:18-19*

## **C. BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES CONCERNING MONETARY MATTERS**

### **1. Acknowledgment of God's hand of blessing**

Deuteronomy 8, 26

a) Receiving

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| i) Danger of forgetting God's hand of blessing | Deuteronomy 8:14 |
| ii) Arrogant claim of personal power           | Deuteronomy 8:17 |
| iii) God's power to gain wealth acknowledged   | Deuteronomy 8:18 |

*"The blessing of the LORD makes one rich,  
And He adds no sorrow to it."*

*Proverbs 10:22*

b) Giving

Proverbs 3:9-10

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| i) Acknowledgment of God's hand of blessing | Deuteronomy 26:7-10  |
| ii) Giving of the tithe with joy            | Deuteronomy 26:11-13 |
| iii) Charity                                | Deuteronomy 26:13-14 |

*"The generous soul will be made rich,  
And he who waters will also be watered himself"*

*Proverbs 11:25*

*"There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing;  
and one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches"*

*Proverbs 13:7*

c) Significance of acknowledging God's hand of blessing

- i) Rightful
- ii) Safe
- iii) Wise
- iv) Appreciation
- v) Worship

## **2. The Principle of Tithing**

a) Training of the Soul

- i) Training of the soul to regard God
- ii) Training of the heart to obey
- iii) Training of the individual to have a sense of community

b) Development of the Mind/heart

- i) To plan
- ii) To have a greater sense of responsibility concerning material blessings
- iii) Utility of funds for ministry purposes

c) Where there is failure to practise tithing                      Malachi 3:8-10

- i) It is compared to “robbery”
- ii) Penalty of a curse placed upon those who “rob God”

d) Promise of blessing where Tithing is faithfully practised

- i) Special outpouring of blessing
- ii) Immeasurable blessing

e) However tithing should not be practised as “a contractual transaction”