

870206 Choosing a Career HLH

best use of family and work. There are some very nice young people now well into their 20s and young people who are a little younger. A trend has occurred at least in this area. There are different trends in different areas but the tendency is to finish high school to get married as soon as possible and to take the most convenient job that is available. Essentially a certain indifference in planning. Now this arose not all together as the result of the faulty thinking of some families or young people in this matter. It happened to have begun of course about a decade ago when some students came to our college when it was under an entirely different administration. Sometimes they stuck it out for a semester. One young fellow was there for one week and simply decided this was not for him. Now that's not true today but for some young people it takes a long time to forget it. And what older brothers or sisters thought younger brothers and sisters are likely to continue to think. Then there was another area outside of this country where I have mentioned young people generally don't know quite what they should do and they stay on unemployment. You go downtown and of course you see a certain prosperity. You see a certain creativity. You ask who does it and here are immigrants learning English who are actually the heart and core of some of the development taking place. It isn't just the money that they have is creative ideas. This brings to light of course a fault that I think we should acknowledge. I want to acknowledge this evening. Now it's a fault not in the sense of what we said was an error but in the sense that what we said was not the whole story. I think you'll catch it right away. We've said in the plain truth magazine that the question of getting a job and times of inflation or times of recession is a critical matter. So we've published articles not necessarily the one that I have in mind by name here but a number of them. This was the theme. How to get and hold a good job. Now there's nothing wrong with acquiring and holding a good job. But there is a premise in that that is partially true but not altogether true. The premise is that all you can do is to find a job but somebody else was creative enough to think of the job. So what we really need to consider and what I want to in a sense focus on this evening is why should you merely look for the job. Why shouldn't you create the job. Probably the most characteristic person fulfilling this was Joseph. You remember the story.

Pharaoh had some trouble with two of those who served him most closely. You know commonly people would be invited to the Pharaoh's palace shall we say. They would be discussing special things and there were two people the one who sipped in the one who ate a bit to be sure that there was no poison for Pharaoh and apparently something did upset either Pharaoh or his guests. And so there were imprisoned the chief butler and the chief baker and there was Joseph. You remember the story of the dreams and it turned out that one of them was restored the other was not. Time went by and the one who was restored forgot Joseph. Pharaoh then had a dream and Joseph was called because the other man recalled his thoughtlessness and Joseph was prepared to appear before Pharaoh and gave him the explanation. Now what is interesting about the story is after he explained the dream he didn't wait for Pharaoh to think up a job. He told Pharaoh exactly what needed to be done in this case. You know what Joseph did. He created a job for himself. Pharaoh said well anybody who can think up a solution like that is a fellow who ought to manage the program. So I think in this sense I have not found and in talking with some I don't think we found a better illustration in the Bible in terms of a person who could give the right advice at the right time or was immediately spotted as the right person for this new responsibility. It's a very important thing to be able to understand how to create jobs for others.

Now of course in the work in the work we don't often think of it this way although Mr. Armstrong did for many years. He realized he was not only responsible for doing a job that Christ had assigned him but in a sense he was also responsible for creating jobs for many whom God was calling and some few loyal people who were not being called. But who especially from the beginning of the college here I think we can never forget the marvelous contribution our music department made for so many years. The leaders in it were never called to our knowledge but one can say it was one of those departments from which we had no disloyalty and no defections. And Mr. Armstrong was always concerned that there was the continuity so that someone wouldn't suddenly be out of a job who had come out here and had moved and given up what otherwise would have been a good occupation where he or she might have been before. This question of creativity this question of thinking what we ought to do both for the work and for the good of the family is a very important thing. Now in a certain sense perhaps this is the one area of the work where this subject is least needed.

Maybe New York is another where most everybody is employed and rather creatively. But in another sense either in Big Sandy or here would be the two most important places to cover a topic like this or at any of the cities where the headquarters offices are around the world because here is where you go out from to the other areas. Here is where students are who go elsewhere. Here on this occasion is where individuals are in from the refreshing program from many areas around the world and are going elsewhere. So I thought it was important to address this topic because the local minister himself and his wife felt it was the most significant problem that they had the most difficult time with in the sense that it sometimes is easier to counsel people and make specific changes in their lives. But it's a lot more difficult to try to follow somebody through in terms of employment. See that he's or she's really doing the maximum that can be done. There are some people of course who are very positive about their skills and abilities and others are very negative. There are some people who know they have limited ability and they have limited ability. There are some people who have good ability and think they don't have it. Then there are others who in a sense think they have certain skills and don't. So it is important that we take an assessment of our own talent shall we say our own drive and determination. And we must distinguish of course the fact that some people are more talented than others. And then there are others who are let's say perhaps not gifted with talent. But what they have is an ability to simply do work with zeal and determination and loyalty. That is they have aspects of character but perhaps no specific creative artistic skills. Maybe they might be defined essentially as more intellectual than necessarily talented. And talents can run in all sorts of areas. Now one of the factors that we must bear in mind is this it's very common to make decisions about our future on the basis of how long we think we're going to benefit from what we do. Some people say I don't want to go to college four years of my time wasted. Who knows. I mean I may not be here for more than one or two years. We don't know when the work is going to end. So why waste my time there. Well may I remind you this is 1987 and this is February 6th and it's about over. I was addressing this question in somewhere around February and March in 1979 when some people thought that we were about to leave in March or April because the devil had come down with great wrath and it was all over. And some of course would right now be approximately eight years in the wilderness waiting for the church to come.

And that's a big chunk of one's life.

So let's learn a lesson from the last war. I doubt that most of the great war World War II I doubt that most of us would want to be around unnecessarily long. That is I think we'd be willing in general to give up in a critical period of time facing the nation if God shows that the work is finished the doors are closed and in fact we are asked to get out whatever to get out whatever the circumstances may be. I doubt that most people will want to stay behind.

The longer we wait of course the more likely we will find that about half will want to stay behind but that's another matter. My point is that at this moment I don't think that's the question rather the question is that we often don't see the long range benefit of making solid decisions that can be useful. So let me just illustrate a point.

If we develop our skills make good judgments in our decisions we are benefiting our family ourselves of course and we're also benefiting the work. The unemployed are essentially not able I didn't say willing but not able to do their full part in the support of the work. Prayer perhaps yes but that's the part only of the responsibilities we have. Now right now it would be good to take a look at circumstances. It's one thing if you came to be converted in 1985 or 86 and it may seem very short term but we really need to look back. When we were first thinking of where we might be and how much work there was to do this goes back very clearly to 1953. That's when it became apparent that there was quite a bit of work to do and another 19 years to 1972 seemed a long long time. There were 18 years and there were 17 years and there were 16 years and it still seemed a long time and 15 years and 14 years but you know between 72 and 87 is another 15 years ago another 15 years ago. That is we were wondering 34 years ago how much time God would enable us to work while it is day 34 years is practically half a lifetime of most men even in the industrial world and that represents for practical purposes nearly the skilled lifetime of most workers on a job. Now let's look at the world seen around us Mr.

Tkach would certainly tell you we don't know whether it's going to be over the year or two or five from now but we can know something. Let me explain it this way if you're willing not to fall in love with whatever money you have whatever property you have whatever relationships you have in this world if you're able to see clearly what you're willing to give up then you needn't have concern about doing a little long-range planning successfully. Let's say that that should be our state of mind and we must start from that premise. Now we also know accidents can happen on the world seen something utterly unforeseen may occur. As of 1987 we could say that such accidents have not occurred since 1972 or for the last 15 years or since 1953 for the last 34 years accidents could happen something unexpected the 1929 stock crash without that there would never have been the rise of Adolf Hitler to power in Germany in 1933 and we wouldn't have had the crisis develop as it did an unforeseen accident could happen. Now the scripture says it will something totally unforeseen focusing in on Jerusalem which will become a stone of stumbling for all nations centering primarily on the Temple Mount that's an accident that's going to happen there might even be a preliminary one that focuses on the world debt problem the next most serious thing and of course the first most likely to occur as an accident but one doesn't know when the accidents occur then there wouldn't be accidents you would know. In the meantime it is advisable that we take a look at what is being planned. As of now the new German election 1987 means that the German nation in Europe for example anticipates the maintenance of its present political policies for another four years to 1991. It doesn't mean the plan to change later but it means that they have accepted that there's another four years and they don't anticipate any major change they wanted it to stay essentially stable. You've been hearing about the single European Act that which will be the most important single piece of legislation to create the European Union dealing essentially at this point yet with minor decisions in which nations give up a certain sovereignty and that is to come into force in 1992 that essentially is five years from now. So from the point of view of the very area of the world it is likely to be the most difficult area for this country to deal with they do not anticipate any major change for the next four to five years and within that time they anticipate taking the first tentative step in nearly 40 years of an attempt to have a certain European Union it's taken that long. Now once the child is able to take a first tentative step without falling the others come much faster you know there's much more rapid so we're not saying the next step will be 40 years later that should be clear but what we're aware of and it's very

important is that Europe is not rushing to judgment. Europe is taking deliberate steps because there are wise and understanding and perhaps not always quite so wise and understanding men and women who are moving toward the solution of the conflicts that have been set Europe for so long since nationalism arose. One can hardly say unless one is from Argentina that Britain is led by a woman with no wisdom. One can hardly say that the socialist leader in France is without wisdom.

He certainly is a man of some judgment to make decisions that don't carry France too far in some unusual direction. One can say that Chancellor Cabbage of Germany that's his name you know Chancellor Cole well Chancellor Cabbage that's an interesting thought isn't it. Anyway he is a man of significance stability without any question he has given guidance to the nation he is not one of the flamboyant individuals but he is in charge.

He likes to be in charge for that matter he said so and he has a command and you know from it's amazing from year to year there are people who said well he won't be in there he's going to be kicked out this one scandal that scandal he can't stay but all the people who were saying these things who are they he's just been reelected for another four years.

That is in terms of the way the parliamentary system operates in Europe is distinct from our system choosing the party and in that sense he's the head of the party so it wasn't the direct vote it was a logical conclusion of their political system. Well this gives you some idea the Soviets of course have long range views and perhaps they've always been a little slow in getting there.

They have said long ago we first in order to get at the United States must in some way have brought Asia under our let's say jurisdiction in the sense that we have a certain measure of control over their trade their political decisions their internal policies it isn't a matter of occupying them but of bringing them into line as cooperative countries. Then the next most important step must be the acquisition of the geographic position of the Republic of South Africa. I'll never forget there are problems down there of another nature I'm not addressing the internal social problems I would only tell you that the Soviet Union knows that if it cannot control the southern tip of Africa it is not yet prepared to put the final pressure on the United States and anyone in South Africa knows how far away the Soviet Union is from achieving that goal.

It's closer than it was 10 years ago but the South Africans are also more aware of what the Soviet Union has in mind for the area. The purpose is to throttle Europe and the United States in order that next Central America should pass to the Soviet orbit which means that the Soviet Union in a sense controls its back Asia controls South Africa which is the route from the oil of the Persian Gulf area around in that sense you have to control both the Suez and South Africa which means that you can sooner or later throttle Europe that's the purpose not to invade but to throttle it. Most people don't realize that the Soviets build up in Europe is not in anticipation of a sudden invasion but to use it as a political threat to keep Europe cowed having remembered what the French did in the days of Napoleon what the Kaiser did what Hitler did what all the countries joined with them did again and again and again and they have to control Central America because we are a two ocean country and the loss of the canal the loss of direct access beyond Mexico having to in a sense go around Cape Horn would be a disaster for this country if we didn't have access to Central America these are choke points now the Soviet Union is not yet ready to take them all and I think we should be realistic somebody just wrote me a letter a member from another continent who was visiting a third continent and he said I admittedly was wrong when I thought it would all end up in 85 and I said I made another mistake when I thought it would be all over in 86 but now I'm quite sure it's going to be all over in 87 and he thinks it will be shortly after the feast I'll merely say that in some 1988 Bible study we may refer to this fact but it illustrates a very good point Mr. Armstrong told he didn't say

these things all his life but he realized it in the last two weeks of his life that God indeed had asked him to lay the foundation but another man was to continue the work of the building of the superstructure now it's going to take much less time took Mr. Armstrong 52 years to work on that foundation I wouldn't anticipate from any realistic view that I have of the world seeing anything that is likely to be more than half the time and very likely less nevertheless that is not something that we can carelessly treat and say well I'll just simply get the best job I can and do what little I can and let somebody else pull his load or my load as well we need to realize that if we have one, two, five, ten or more years how well we handle our skills and guide young people in primary grades junior high school high school into college or junior college if they don't come to ambassador all these things need to be carefully evaluated so that our young people will prove to be successful we have of course the remarkable experience that as a teacher I had students in college and the early 1950s whose children have already graduated who are married and themselves may have children today a whole generation has gone by and we still are capitalizing on what we did in those days when we could now for those who were still in school when the work is over fine they they've done what they could in the period of time and if God decides that the sun has set and the night has come that is his choice but we cannot be neglectful and I think it is very important that we think of this in terms of ourselves as grandparents or parents or young people or relatives encouraging one another to make wise choices and decisions in their in the lives of those who have education before them or who can rethink opportunities in the field of employment because there is a lot of change in that area so at this stage we do not anticipate at this moment the sudden collapse of the debt market which could be an economic disaster I say this because if we have a superstructure to build and we are just beginning the impact of television in Europe it really doesn't make sense that we get one fraction of a wall up and God calls that the building I think you should analyze the areas of the world in which things must yet be done much more can be done in Europe west and east only some things can be done in Africa by nature of the infrastructure the lack of transportation or an effective postal system many areas of Asia simply will remain waiting for the kingdom of God I would like to cite again that some areas of the world like that have not even an access to a book that's called the Bible they in many ways may be closer to the kingdom of God than we realize just like that Roman soldier had more faith than anyone in Israel Jesus said I received a very delightful letter it wasn't yes it was a letter as well as a note two things from Sri Lanka from the Buddhist scholar at the Puravana school where one of our men is teaching I have mentioned him before he's the man who pointed out that from his point of view one of the most important verses he had seen in the gospel excuse me was Jesus statement think not that I am come to destroy the law and the prophets I'm not come to destroy but to fulfill now here is a man who was a Buddhist scholar and he knows something of the Worldwide Church of God the ambassador foundation ambassador college and he was talking with our man there this was in a letter from him which followed a letter from the young man himself who had told me about it as well but in closing I thought this was a beautiful statement I'll try to quote it generally he said and I pray that you will remain in the grace of Lord Jesus Christ that's a Buddhist writing now I get other letters from Christians I don't want your magazine anymore now this man by contrast says you will note I'm sending you two more copies of our Buddhist publication and it says on there free of charge he said I learned that from you that's right that's the way to do it now he's got the way we must add the truth and the light that's all but you know there is a man who wouldn't find it that difficult to take the next step so you see there are areas of the world that we don't anticipate the same things that we do in Europe people who don't have full access to the book but who remarkably have never stumbled over many things that the Christian world has stumbled over or for that matter the Jewish world but we see that there are certain areas of Africa where significant work can be done spots in Asia we're just beginning in Japan for instance but in Europe it's amazing what still could be done but it cannot take the same amount of time that it took in North America or

the British Commonwealth so we will have to see there's certainly work that can be done in Latin America yet to announce the message the Jesus himself brought we have much more that can be done there so from a certain point of view Mr. Armstrong has told us that there is enough work that it's unthinkable that we can all finish it in a month or for that matter a year when you see that and then when you see the slow deliberate steps being taken by the opposite superpower and by the Europeans in terms of step-by-step unity when you see still the minuscule views of certain ones in Israel who are most likely to ultimately tip the scale they don't represent more than a fraction in a sense of the tiniest fraction of the country at this point in time from that perspective therefore we really do need to get to work while it is day and we can best get to work by being trained for our responsibilities so let us now focus in on some particular points that should hopefully be helpful in conveying encouragement to others some of us underestimate our abilities some of us fewer hopefully overestimate them in my judgment i'm not as concerned about those who overestimate they soon should learn a lesson i'm concerned about those who underestimate where it is difficult to get into their minds men or women how much more they could actually achieve we've said many a time it's a lot easier to sit on somebody who overestimates himself or herself you know than it is to prop somebody up who underestimates himself or herself and i mentioned men and women in this sense because in our society there aren't many opportunities for women today in the 80s and into the 90s that we're not here in the 50s not that all these opportunities are good but the reality is that there's no use sitting in an apartment with four walls if you're a woman there may be things that really could be done and should be done and of course we have some very fine creative women in the work so the first thing is to recognize that you ought to consider whether you are really fully understanding your abilities or whether you are let's say denying some of the skills and abilities you have do you push yourself Solomon tells us a lot in the book of Proverbs about pushing oneself on to achieve and wisely not to accumulate money that's not what we're talking about here but to develop ourselves as a person and to make the spin-off which might include money responsibility public image and character all for the benefit of one's own family and friends others who are in need and most of all the work you remember the parable the person who hid his talent in the napkin was not the fellow who was given 10 not the fellow who was even given five but the person who was given one so now let's finish this thought here and point out that sometimes the person who may have by nature less of the abilities or opportunities on the basis of this parable is likely to be the first one who does the least with it that is there is something in human beings that the you know the the more skills and abilities you have been given or have acquired the the more you like to use them but people who are limited often shirk responsibility there is an area that is very important not to shirk responsibility many young people out of high school today think of themselves as having one talent i can't do this i can't do that i've got no money well the fact remains you don't compare yourself with the person who's been working for 25 years and it took him 25 years to get what he has or what she has so that now some things can be done a very important evaluation needs to be made by anybody who has completed the pre-collegiate education to sit down and to analyze whether let's say you're somebody who should simply take the nearest and best job that's available or whether you should become more creative and analyze whether academic pursuits are important whether non-academic pursuits whether job experience whether non-job experience is more important that non-job experience is often associated with sometimes night school it isn't directly related to the job and it isn't directly academic but where you can get some other training so we'll focus in at the moment on this area as one of those areas in which in this case young people often underestimate themselves we must not underestimate ourselves and of course there are older individuals who have regularly underestimated their abilities now from here we should ask ourselves what is it that makes some people simply want to do what somebody else tells them and how is it that some people can succeed by being their own bosses well that's an experience that perhaps we have to go through we

need to analyze ourselves perhaps we need to analyze our family and what others in the family have done there was a time this was not such a question when most people lived out in the country almost everyone was in a sense in a sense self-employed most farmers have been self-employed now they're being reduced to a great extent simply as workers for the bank or workers for a great agribusiness but as people drifted into the city more and more drifted into the that area that we simply call doing hourly wage work there's some who are in management who might be on salary now right now there is a new shift in the area of what we call services where people can be self-employed Mr. Armstrong took a test years ago you remember and analyzed his strengths and his weaknesses now that test perhaps is interesting today it certainly could be of some interest but much more has been learned some things have been unlearned too unfortunately but there is no doubt that it wouldn't hurt us to take some kind of self-examination to see where our abilities are that's just good common sense you might find that relatives generally proved more successful at one thing than another and with that in mind this gives you some idea of what your own skills are likely to be we've learned i must say i've learned to note to what extent our children's skills tend to mirror one side or another of the family our children don't have skills that some of you do because our family didn't inherit those particular skills but they inherited perhaps others these will vary and perhaps as an older person one sees some of these things that one didn't see right out of high school in one's self at that time but it is certainly worth taking some kind of self-examination test we're not talking of something costly and to get the evaluation of others my wife i was talking with her about this what about counselors but then first thing that comes to her mind is that our daughter the youngest one told us told my wife in particular that she was not impressed with the counselor in that case she probably was right but there are counselors that are very helpful in this case she had her own mind already made up uh she didn't need somebody to tell her what she was willing and able to do but there are others who don't know what to do and a counselor is very important to give some kind of guidance we soon learned that as individuals we make up our minds about things at different age levels some children graduate from high school and don't know what to do some young people graduate from college and don't know what to do and some already wish they were out of junior high so they could do what they want to do so these are very variable things we should recognize not to rush out of schooling but we should also as the years go by be able to assess what we could do and what we could do best we're not asked to develop every single talent if you lived as long as adam you could perhaps devote a century to each but this is not your time we simply don't have that kind of time what we're dealing with is what's the most useful and where can we be the happiest and most effective it isn't just where the most money comes from I think that's valuable but we should not be in a job that we hate I think that's tragic and many people are misfits that's been addressed Mr McNair was a deputy chancellor over the years has pointed up the importance of finding that particular area in which you really could do well there may be other areas you could do well also but don't get into an area in which you can't do well find one in which you can clearly succeed now a counselor can give the kind of advice that may steer you into experiences that will help you make a choice sometimes you have to have on the job experience or you might discover that a job you have clearly isn't what you would want to do now a counselor can give the kind of advice that may steer you into experiences that will help you make a choice sometimes you have to have on the job experience or you might discover that a job you have clearly isn't what you would want to do there is something to be said about knowing people I had an interesting discussion I've mentioned this on occasion some years ago with a man in this case he is the with other people one of the great things about people who are successful is they like to introduce you to other people who are successful and what they assume is that you will follow through and profit by that introduction now in the church we can't follow through on everyone because it's simply too worldly in certain cases that is going in the wrong direction but one would be surprised how often good responsible

contacts are important in terms of being successful in holding down responsibilities a counselor a teacher can steer you in a certain direction perhaps family members can steer you who have had opportunities or they know other people I believe this is one of the greatest problems that occurs for black men in the inner cities of the United States the people whom they know or the people unfortunately in general who are in occupations that should never exist especially with the drug traffic today in the inner city and it is that absence of contact with people who are succeeding and to see others who are successful on the job other than in the area perhaps of sports and a few exceptions that has greatly limited the creative inspiration for young people in the inner cities I don't know of anything that I can say that's more important than the church could contribute and that is that if you as an older person in the congregation find that a young person is really interesting that you take some time out and and see what that young person man or woman would like to do the church in the Midwest that I spoke of that the minister has a 12 year old son who has some talent and there is a man in the church who has an ability and a job in the same general area and he's working with this young person now his father doesn't have this talent nor his time his father's a minister but this person does have a certain amount of time and is giving him some instruction I think that is a very let's say noble endeavor someone who steps out of his normal realm which is simply taking care of his job and himself and stepping into the role of giving a young person a certain encouragement now this is something that we could all do because some of us have some unusual contacts I know of individuals that certainly can provide let's say contacts at some significant level in different fields certainly Mr. Tkach could say the same thing Mr. Armstrong could have said the same thing you know with our experience after decades we meet people and you you like them you you talk things over they introduce others to you and you realize that there are opportunities so it is helpful if we sat down and analyzed in our local congregations what young people are doing and became a little more acquainted with what they would like to do and achieve I'm somewhat aware and not fully as much as perhaps I should be of the creativity of some young people certainly I find it interesting to see what they want to do and I have encouraged some in certain particular areas where I think I have some knowledge in an area where I simply have no knowledge I say why don't you see somebody else so there's an area where we can all within the church assist as well as within the world outside where there are acquaintances and opportunities that lie ahead the old greek expression know yourself was sometimes misunderstood but in this sense is very important you should know yourself Mr. Armstrong knew himself he knew his strengths and his weaknesses Mr. D'Kotch knows where his greatest strengths are Mr. D'Kotch was not trained in advertising he was trained in other significant areas which explain his management skills Mr. Armstrong needed those skills less than he needed the advertising skills much more to lay the foundation so we should all recognize our general abilities and our weaknesses and capitalize on the former now in analyzing what we could do let us take one of those simple illustrations in my judgment most people even if they had abilities in certain areas could not exercise them in some because of the conflict between the law of god and the way this world is going in the world for a profession music offers very little even though many of you may have some significant talent it's one of the problems that I know has occurred again and again and that is the problem of performance friday evening or saturday we can encourage young people to do their best but we must recognize there's some areas that are simply wiser to stay away from it's wonderful to develop within the church and to use it but it may not be successful for you to be in such an area in the world in terms of public performance then there is the question let's say that's less useful for us but in certain areas it's still important and that is the question of farming now if there is an area which ought to be one of those god blessed areas this certainly should be and yet it is the one area that most people will never succeed in this present world it's too late unless you inherit a paid for ranch there's no use trying to but let me just illustrate the point you also need to have some financial judgment as to whether there's going to be a

sufficient reward for the efforts put in there's no use buying expensive land if it's going to cost more to buy the land than the land will produce an agricultural output on the market that's common sense and yet many of the farmers did the opposite who should have known better who were on the farm these were not city people who went out into the farm they knew better they bought the farm as a write-off they wanted to lose money but the farmer should have known better in many cases and expanded with expensive property without realizing that the product produced on the land would never be able adequately to sustain family and debt similarly when we go into business we need to know that if you do some investing in some small business that you're really going to get a logical result so it is very important to have access to information as to what it really costs to be in some areas and you may simply have to work toward it and not rush if you have inherited some money the one thing you don't want to rush into is spend it and if you haven't and you work toward it and you plan and you analyze is that an effective area there are areas in which you can easily make money or lose money there are areas in which you will never be rich but never be poor you learn of course that in a sense business is based on the fact of offering services of sufficient worth to the other person that the other person would rather exchange his money for your services than keep the money that's really what business is based on and you need to realize that your service should not be merely a cover to get somebody's money but it should be a service in which what you give is most certainly equal to if not more than what would be paid that is the right way to approach it there are a number of verses in the bible that are interesting in this connection and i thought it might be good to go through a few of the proverbs as time permits and give us some understanding there are general aspects of character not always related to job but there are a few that most certainly would help us in this area we will bypass at the moment the introduction which covers the first nine chapters and take a look at chapter 10 it starts out in an interesting fashion a wise son makes a glad father a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother now these are general statements that we probably would find satisfactory without much further thinking on the other hand in terms of earning a living in terms of jobs in terms of goals you want to think about the impact this past if a son isn't wise and there are some serious mistakes that he makes how distracting this can be to father and mother how much time can be taken trying to correct the mistakes of children perhaps having to pay for those mistakes financially it would have been much better to have set the young man or the young woman on the right path in the first place than to try to pick up the pieces afterward especially if you have a business you have perhaps a service that you can render and not to have someone whom you can trust within the family to do the work it's wonderful when a father and son situation can occur where a young man can take over and continue the work that the father has done or help expand it because he profits by his father's experience and goes from there in a sense what we learn from this is that if we're really going to be successful in what we do we must first of all be successful in our child rearing and therefore we will be much more successful later and we won't have the same distractions the same costly mistakes that unfortunately other bad parents have to pay for because we have solved it early in life let's then move a little further in this he becomes poor verse four who works with a slack hand now this is a general rule of thumb the hand of the diligent makes rich that is you prosper now we generally have no problem with verse four in our understanding the point of importance is however that that's only a part of the story for instance if your hand is always diligent but you never take it off the shovel in the ditch you're not going to get ahead there is a time in other words not only to be diligent but to ask what are you diligent at ought you stay with what you're doing or should you begin to do something else and this is where this matter of self analysis is very important now maybe if you work for somebody else he will offer you an opportunity but you must realize whether that opportunity is really going to be profitable you could be given an opportunity and go in a direction that is soon going to be dead end you want to analyze whether new opportunities are likely to let's say be worth the effort and not to be in some competitive area where you simply will find no proper

immigration the time to be a school teacher is not when everybody else decides to be a school teacher this is what happened in the early 60s and we had so many who wanted to change the world and improve the world and they went into teaching and there were no opportunities for them all and so many wasted their time and often those who stayed in afterward wished they hadn't been in the area now of course we have a real shortage of skilled teachers at certain levels this is now essentially a quarter of a century later the time to have studied for being a teacher is when most people thought this wasn't the time to study and started to go in another direction because you would see that finally you would be at that point in time when the need would arise for you and those who had been in it and sour didn't want to go back and those who never continued had already gotten interested in something else so you should read these proverbs but realize that very often they only apply to the general matter of character in whatever occupation you have but they don't necessarily tell you what occupation you have or whether you should remain in it and this is where creativity is very important the kind that Joseph saw he saw it was a lot better to work for Pharaoh than it was for his former employer and he could also see what that might mean in terms of the dreams he had had you remember verse five he that gathers in summer as a wise son that is you work when the opportunity comes summer in the northern hemisphere was that time when harvest was the way to make money because there is a time and there is no harvesting you don't want to lose the income from the previous month's work months apostrophe he sleeps at harvest is the sun that causes shame so it is very important to realize when opportunity comes use it that's what this is telling us when opportunity comes use it whether it is small or great now let's turn to some other aspects here that might be of some help chapter 11 verse 15 he that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it he that hates surety is secure that is where in a sense you either give your money to somebody else hoping that it will be paid back because you need it back or where you promise to pay somebody else's debts it is very important that when you enter into an agreement with anybody else that you correctly assess the situation great damage can be done by people who have provided their money for somebody else and the somebody else who has none but has the ideas is usually the one who if he had had better ideas would have had the money in the first place and probably doesn't have successful ideas presently probably that's just a point of wisdom unfortunately most people in the church who have money have forgotten another worldly proverb money talks and they've let the person who didn't have it talk it's very important that if you have this capital resource that you have some understanding as to how it will be used or keep it in your own jurisdiction there is another nice principle laid out in 24 I'm reading by the way from the revised version I just happened to have it at the table this evening I thought it's sometimes nice to read a slightly different one it's very near the authorized but a little more modern in a few places there is that scatter that is one who does and yet increases more there's one who withholds more than is proper and he thinks he is therefore retained something but in the end it tends only to want in his case so the liberal soul will be made fat this is talking about generosity the word liberal originally meant generous not permissive it's very important that you realize that in a job that you do your best or whenever there is a need that you do help others when the need is genuine you don't curse yourself by helping a rich man that's foolish I mean even he will think you're foolish but don't withhold in order for you to profit by taking advantage of someone else one can say I think Mr. Armstrong was generous to a fault he said so himself he was very generous the one thing he never did was to withhold what he thought was certainly something that might help someone else it's sometimes wise to know how far to go and no further but it's always better let's say to scatter mean that you help here you help there and what seems to be a loss when you do that turns out to be a gain these principles apply in any area but also they must be tempered with wisdom when you are responsible for managing yours or somebody else's money you must know that you are not in fact allowing money that is essential for the business to be diverted to generosity somewhere else which does not make sense for the good of what

business you're in now there is another verse chapter 12 verse 11 I'm just picking out a few there's some in between that would be of help he that tills his land shall have plenty of bread but he that follows after vain persons is devoid of understanding now it's quite all right if you till your land you have plenty of bread that means you must work at it you must work at it you remember the old story of the fellow who was told that if he found what was buried in the soil why he would become a prosperous person and he dug and dug and you know he simply turned up all the soil and he never found it so he planted it and produced a marvelous crop that that was where the wealth was he had to work at it now today of course you must do it but not with all this high cost borrowed money but the point of verse 11 the last half is what I draw to your attention he that follows after vain persons is devoid of understanding that is people who come up with vain ideas simply that will never succeed so easy for a person who doesn't have money to have the right idea and they come to the person who has it don't ever let that kind of thing take place but that kind of thing does take place in and out of the church the proverb here says to be aware simply better to manage your own money now somebody has a good idea and he has also handled his money properly now that might be a little better he's given a little more proof Mr. Armstrong saw this problem many years ago as one of the great difficulties and he felt it was always better not to get involved in loaning if you have to help somebody in need make it a gift make it a gift chapter 13 verse 7 there is that or one who makes himself rich yet has nothing he that makes himself poor yet has great wealth you know there are people who were constantly borrowing from somebody else and appear to be rich but they really have nothing and there are those who are helping others and don't appear to have that much because they're helping others and yet they're accumulating and i'm not talking about in another realm in the world tomorrow or in heaven some reward i'm talking about even in this life because of a man is careful enough to have enough to give away he is also therefore having a solid base from which that money that is given to help others comes from but if a person quickly seems to be rich by having borrowed he will soon discover he has nothing there were many letters in circulation and 77 78 79 and you were told to leverage up and leverage up and leverage up and you had so much title and so many deaths and that was before interest suddenly rose sky high at which point you couldn't sell what you had acquired because nobody could borrow at any reasonable rate to buy what you had you'll notice that such statements no longer appear in the mail and people who made those statements no longer have public lectures so it is important to take note that you don't suddenly try to become rich on other people's money now there is a time to make use of other people's money but you must know what you're doing and your motive should never be just to get rich quicker but rather to be able to help others and to be practical and always concerned for the person from whom such funds would be borrowed in this case of bank or savings and loan whatever that's the right approach verse 18 the same chapter poverty and shame shall be to him who refuses correction the footnote for that is instruction not necessarily correction in the sense that we think of for children instruction poverty and shame to him who refuses instruction so here we do learn that it is important to be made wise by the instruction of others you want to listen to others experience it pays to pay attention to what other people have learned and then you will know whether you should go ahead and do what you were planning if you don't pay attention you may make the same mistakes the other person did first 22 says a good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children that is to his grandchildren now that is a solidly good principle that we don't neglect our family responsibilities that means we give our children or our grandchildren in this particular case opportunities to succeed a good man leaves an inheritance to his grandchildren is not the example of a man who gets a girl pregnant and doesn't even care for his children much less his grandchildren that's the way it is you know and now much of the world 20 to 25 percent in the white community and 50 percent in the black community and this country are born of men who don't even think of leaving an inheritance much less to their children's children now you can't be successful in life for the family or successful

for the church unless you take an approach such as this and make it fundamental the reason the church of god today is succeeding as well as it has is that no small part of the growth of the church today not a decade ago but today is coming from young people who were reared correctly who have learned responsibility who have married successfully who now themselves make a contribution to the church there are always people who are listening to the broadcast reading our publications who are also coming in but no small part today is coming from the result of good parenting and that goes hand in hand with successful job responsibility and of course when grandchildren come along what a marvelous opportunity to give them a chance to succeed where let's say maybe you didn't have it was much more difficult for you to succeed when you were young in this case you give grandchildren an opportunity now remember this doesn't mean we spoil them they always should learn how to earn money how to have a good job and how to succeed at what they do but to give opportunity so they don't have to spend their time at some things and may proceed with others that's one of the great gifts that we as parents or grandparents can give 15 chapter 15 verse 16 better is little with the fear of the lord than great treasure and trouble there with now this of course pertains to the human relationship we're familiar with that the next mention is better to have a dinner of herbs where love is than a stalled ox and hate many aspects here are general but we'll just say by picking one and you can read some more you discover that you can try to accumulate a lot of money and there are all sorts of troubles keeping it it's sometimes simply better to have a little there are many farmers they're gifted they're able and they are not expected to do more than they can they have a little they have a fear of god they do what is right they didn't get into trouble and seem to be wealthy by buying up new lands with borrowed money and then came the trouble to pay off the debts you see so what may be here typical of any aspect of life to which this can apply here's the proverb most certainly that farmers as a whole in this country paid no attention to beginning roughly in 1972 on until it was too late better to have the old paid for tractor better to have the smaller property paid for many people made serious mistakes in other areas of expanding too late never want to take the risk of that's better to stay a little smaller than to lose too much let's move now to chapter 16 verse 16 another interesting thought here how much better it is to get wisdom than gold yet to get understanding is rather to be chosen than silver now in some ways the word wisdom is used here throughout the book without significant definition and i want to draw attention to the fact that wisdom is as you go along taken for granted as understood by the reader that is to be able to make wise decisions it is very important therefore to know when it comes to our being successful contributors to the work that we have the wisdom to make right decisions and we don't put first the mere selfish coveting of money that's very important in the long run that's not the way to go to try to make money quick to try to focus on money itself whether gold or silver is not the way to go a man long since dead Mr. Henian who used to be on the board of trustees of the church of god in Oregon was a man who never set his heart on gold or silver but set it on wisdom and Mr. Armstrong cited his example many times in the earlier years of the college he told Mr. Armstrong on one occasion he said you know i don't give quite as much as some others or as much as i would be able to in any one year but he said you know Mr. Armstrong i've been giving in the depression how come i can give more each year the answer is i don't give more than i can afford to give and i set aside a certain amount which enables me to have a better base to make more money for the work next year i could give it all this year and i wouldn't have it to work with for next year so the choice of wisdom to know how to make right decisions in the use of time money and talent and friendships contact that is very important that's the most important the gold will come as a result but you don't seek it in terms of gold or silver so it's very important that we make wise choices and these wise choices in the long run will produce either the gold or silver which the work can use the family can use as well as of course that which is even more valuable the spiritual wisdom and understanding overall in life but it's important that you learn to make right decisions and not merely try to get ahead too quickly Mr.

Armstrong told you in the autobiography that he could have taken one route which would have given him a quick opportunity and it essentially would have been a dead end job or he took he could take the job that was smaller you know writing the want ads which gave less results less gold less silver but there was a lot of wisdom and understanding to be learned in writing those want ads and dealing with people learning the little thing how to write a little ad before you write a bigger one and in the end of course he was simply better trained so you don't always want to measure it on the basis of immediate remuneration now I have another verse in chapter 18 22 verse 22 whoever finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor of the eternal whoever finds a wife finds a good thing most people today have only lovers the wife is someone who is actually a wife someone who is actually a wife as God defines and if there is a problem certainly many men or it could be the reverse the women who they have a man they're living with but they don't really have a husband to have the right mate means that you really do have God's favor and that you have found someone who can be of help at very critical periods of time now turn a page and you come to chapter 19 verse 14 a very interesting parallel house and riches are an inheritance from fathers or grandfathers but a prudent wife is from God now this implies that you can work at the accumulation of goods and present it to your children or your grandchildren but the best thing is to trust God to find a prudent mate and not just your wisdom in a sense your wisdom your understanding your skills can enable you to pay for house or home and to accumulate sufficient monies to be able to leave your children and grandchildren so they can become more successful those are the things you can put your mind to but perhaps what this is telling us is all that could be undone if you simply marry an imprudent woman or vice versa a woman who inherits from her father and marries an imprudent man spends it on alcohol beer whatever or gambling works both ways so from these two verses in 1822 and 1914 we have some very important implications that there are some things you can do and there are other things God provides you have to use judgment but if you really trust God he can bring the person into your life whom you would never have thought to have met before my wife and I yesterday evening I think could say that two of the ministers are here whom we knew from the earliest years of their college life from their judgment they have both married successfully and I trust that the women think the same but I can say that I think they both left it to God to find a way to bring to their attention the right person now before we leave this evening there is something that could undo everything you learn wine is a mocker and strong drink a brawler and whoever errs thereby is not wise how much is undone by the abuse of alcohol your reputation your money your family can all be seriously damaged you must never neglect that in terms of the development of your service one last one that seems appropriate for this occasion the rich rules over the poor the borrower is servant to the lender there is a time to capitalize on someone else's money but you want to follow advice of a church member who said long ago if you want to take a little risk and there are people who can successfully do so always be sure that you don't put everything you have at risk you just take something and put it at risk hence the old statement don't put all your eggs in one basket because when you stumble and the basket tips over and all the eggs go out they're all gone but if you have two baskets and you happen to have struck something with one you have them all in the other you know that's the meaning of the proverb so it's very important that you never put more than a minimum at risk there is a time in other words that I can see and we've always understood that to perhaps to borrow and in that area you are a servant to the lender and then you pay it off and then you're like the person who is in charge but never let it get out of hand so much so that you put your home and your family at risk never take needless chances in the development of your let's say the monies that come from your wages your salary or your business now there's much more that can be done I don't think the ministry is in the capacity to be what we would call business counselors financial counselors in any sense of the word but the bible does counsel on many of these broad examples here and you can learn to apply it you have wonderful public libraries to go to you have

friendships to capitalize on so let's make good use of our time in the foreseeable future the foreseeable future