



THE UPSIDE TO A DOWNSIDE ECONOMY

Message Three: Where Is God? *Pastor Mike Chapman*

Whole corporations are closing. Some nations are teetering on the brink. Our leaders are saying that this crisis may not go away anytime soon. Foreclosures...Bankruptcies...Unemployment...you name it and the news is bad—as bad as it has been in decades.

The question that we as followers of Christ must ponder is “Where is God in all of this?” Is this his judgment? Perhaps. Or, could there be something much deeper going on?

WHAT WE KNOW FOR SURE

God is **sovereign**.

Proverbs 19:21, We may make a lot of plans, but the LORD will do what he has decided. (CEV)

Isaiah 46:10, I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

God is passionate about his **glory**.

Malachi 1:11, ‘For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations,’ says the Lord. (NASB)

Habakkuk 2:14, *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.* (ESV)

God is **great**, and God is **good**.

Psalm 136:1-3, Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of gods. His faithful love endures forever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords. His faithful love endures forever. (NLT)

COULD THIS BE WHAT GOD IS UP TO?

Could this economic downturn be a sign of God's **ferocious love**?

There are three things that God is doing in this recession:

1. **Revealing** hidden sin in order to bring us to repentance.

Job 1:1, *There once was a man named Job who lived in the land of Uz. He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil.* (NLT)

Job 42:6, *'I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.'* (NIV)

God uses recession, like other forms of affliction and trials, to shake us up and reveal the hidden sins of our hearts. Not to shame us but to lead us to repentance.

2. **Replanting** the roots of our joy in his grace rather than our goods.

2 Corinthians 8:1-2, *Brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.* (NIV)

God wants our joy to move from...

Our goods	to	His grace
Our money	to	His mercy
Our wealth	to	His worth

3. **Reviving** the church to act as it was always intended to act.

Acts 2:32-34, Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common...There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. (ESV)

The Church was made for seasons like this.

The recession will determine if we are a church or a club.