

## Out of Gas

“I wish that I had enough money that I could give to the church.” the young man confessed to the minister. “I know that I should give, but I just have too many bills and if I gave an offering, some of my bills would go unpaid.” The minister replied, “Was it God who created the debt that you’re in now? Was it God who decided that you needed to live beyond your means?” “No sir, I figure that it was all my doing.” The young man answered. “Then let’s sit down, take a look at your bills and see if we can’t find some of the Lord’s money in that big pile of bills. Once we do, it will be up to you to make arrangements for that money to find its way to the proper place. And don’t forget, God is going to help you with this. If you were on a trip and on a long lonely stretch of road, then ran out of gas, would you just sit there or would you use another means of transportation?” “I’d probably just start walking”, the young man replied. “Then that’s what you’ve got to do here, you’re out of gas and you’re going to have to walk a while before you can put gas back into that stranded car of yours. Does that make sense?” “Yes sir, I’m afraid it does. I’m gonna have to do without some stuff until I can get back on my feet.”

There are a lot of us who should heed the minister’s advice. Many of the things we consider necessities are really luxuries that we’ve come to expect as part of “our daily bread” and we’ve borrowed and spent ourselves into some deep holes that are going to be hard to get out of. However, the bible says that if we give, and give with the right attitude, we’ll be blessed and given more so that we can give again (Luke 6:38). We’ve all got to look at the blessings we now have, re-prioritize our commitments and do without some things in order to give as God intended. The great thing about giving to God is that it’s an investment that has unlimited amount of returns and when done correctly and with the right attitude may very well keep us from “running out of gas” again!

*Jay Launius - 2022*