## The things they say . .

"

It is a personal conviction of mine that money is **congealed life**.

It is my work, my talents, my personality reduced to negotiable form.

In so far as I give money to God, or anyone else, I give that which represents me. **99** 

Robin Stevens, Reader and former National Stewardship Officer for C of E

There is no such thing as 'my' bread.

All bread is ours and is given to me, to others through me, and to me through others.

For not only bread, but all things necessary for sustenance in this life, are given on loan to us with others, and because of others, and for others, and to others through us.

Meister Eckhardt 1290 - 1329

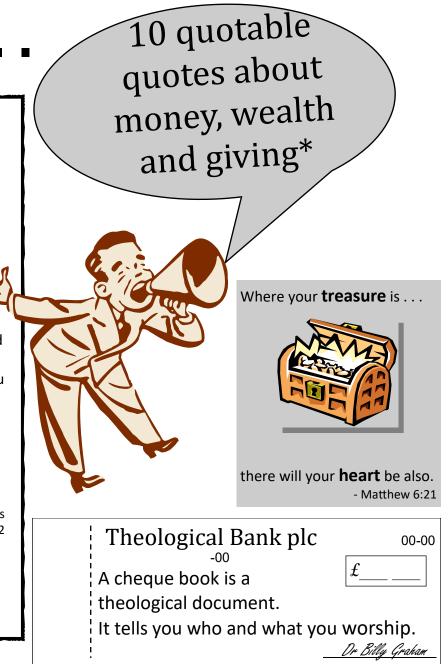
The thing that God gives more than anything else is himself.

Receiving the grace of God is like a crevice half way down the Niagara Falls saying that it receives some water! Receiving isn't the word to describe the abundance of the water.

There's not a great deal of point in the rocky crevice half way down saying, "Well, I think I would like to hold on to some of this water." You really haven't got much option. It falls on you and it bounces off, that's what waterfalls do!

It's given to us to be givers, to pass on an intensity of outpouring.

> Rowan Williams Archbishop of Canterbury 2003–2012



\*Actually, there are only 9 . . . the other one has been tithed.

It's time to label things properly.

We should not talk of "credit" but "usury". Debt needs to regain its old stigma.

Mortgages . . . a feudal term that literally means a bond until death.

Churches should be taking on the market economy with a message about debt that the Bible could not spell out more clearly.

Antonia Swinson, financial journalist Church Times 3 October 2003

By the 1980's, few of us even knew that it might be a good idea to ask how chicken could be sold for 49 pence a pound.

We were just grateful to be able to cut our food budgets so that we could have more money to **spend** on TVs, computers, "

stereos, holidays, cars and so on.

Sheila Dillon, Producer, The Food Programme, Radio 4

Remember the poor when you look out on the fields you own, On your plump cows grazing. Remember the poor when you look into your barn,

At the abundance of your harvest.

Remember the poor when the wind howls and the rain falls.

As you sit warm and dry in your house.

**Remember the poor** when you eat fine meat And drink fine ale at your fine carved table.

The cows have grass to eat; The rabbits have burrows for shelter: The birds have warm nests:

But the poor have no food except what you feed them.

No shelter except your house when you welcome them.

No warmth except your glowing fire.

from Celtic Fire, ed R van der Weyer - author unknown



## Give careful thought to your ways . . .

- You have planted much, but have harvested little.
- You eat, but never have enough.
- You drink, but never have your fill.
- You put on clothes, but are not warm.
- You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.

Haggai 1:5,6