“Money, Money, Money”
(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:
A. A song by Swedish pop group ABBA in 1976 about a woman who works hard and cannot make ends meet, and she wants to meet and marry a rich man

Money, money, money
Must be funny
In the rich man's world
Money, money, money
Always sunny
In the rich man's world
All the things I could do
If I had a little money
It's a rich man's world

B. Misconceptions
1. “Poor people are morally superior”
2. “It is a sin to be wealthy”
3. “If you are wealthy, you need to give it all away”

C. Our attitude toward wealth should recognize:
1. Our relationship with God regarding wealth
2. Reasons God has given for wealth
3. Problems associated with wealth

D. 1Tim. 6:6-10, 17-19
1. Perhaps there is no more uncomfortable subject to discuss than other people's money.
2. God's word makes it clear that the gospel preacher must address this.

I. OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD REGARDING MONEY
A. We do not truly own anything. God owns everything.
   1. Deut. 10:14; Psalm 24:1; 1Chron 29:11-14; Psalm 50:10-12; 1Cor 10:26
B. Abiding riches do not exist in this world - Matt. 6:19-21; 2Cor. 8:9
C. Neither wealth nor our lack of it assures our acceptability to God.
   1. Prov. 30:8-9; Psalm 51:17
D. With the right spirit, it is possible to prosper and be faithful to God.

II. REASONS GOD HAS GIVEN FOR WEALTH
A. To share with the poor - Eph. 4:28; Acts 20:33-35; Gal. 2:10; Luke 19:8-9
   1. The Jews considered giving to the poor one of the three great personal righteousnesses; Jesus approved and clarified the matter - Matt. 6:1-4
B. When we give to the poor, we prove our love - 2Cor. 8:8; 1John 3:17
C. To promote the work of the church - 1Cor. 16:1-2
D. To provide for our needs
   1. God knows we have needs - Matt. 6:33
   2. He wants us to care for our families - 1Tim. 5:8
E. To enjoy God's creation - 1Tim. 6:17; Ecc. 2:24
III. PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH WEALTH
   A. Wealth is often antagonistic to spirituality - Mark 10:23-25
   B. Wealth can deceive and mislead - Matt. 13:22
   C. Wealth can increase temptation - James 5:1-6
   D. Wealth can generate covetousness - Luke 12:13-21
   E. Wealth is temporary - James 1:9-10

IV. THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD ALREADY KNOW THIS
   A. “Everyone wants to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down.” (Oprah Winfrey)
   B. “A wise person should have money in their head, but not in their heart.” (Jonathan Swift)
   C. “He who loses money, loses much; He who loses a friend, loses much more; He who loses faith, loses all.” (Eleanor Roosevelt)
   D. “Money is like love; it kills slowly and painfully the one who withholds it, and enlivens the other who turns it on his fellow man.” (Kahlil Gibran)
   E. “Money as such is not evil; it is its wrong use that is evil. Money in some form or other will always be needed.” (Gandhi)

V. GOD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO KNOW THIS, TOO
   A. Prov. 8:10-11, 15:16, 13:7-8, 22:2, 1:19