



“Money, Money, Money”

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- Misconceptions
 - “Poor people are morally superior”
 - “It is a sin to be wealthy”
 - “If you are wealthy, you need to give it all away”

“Money, Money, Money”

- Our attitude toward wealth should recognize:
 - Our relationship with God regarding wealth
 - Reasons God has given for wealth
 - Problems associated with wealth

1Timothy 6:6-10

- “Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

1Timothy 6:17-19

- “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

Our Relationship With God Regarding Money

- We do not truly own anything. God owns everything.
 - Deut. 10:14 - “Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it.”
 - Psalm 24:1 - “The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.”

Our Relationship With God Regarding Money

- 1Chron. 29:11-14 - "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all. 12 Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all. 13 Now therefore, our God, We thank You And praise Your glorious name. 14 But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You."

Our Relationship With God Regarding Money

- Psalm 50:10-12 - “For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine. 12 If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.”
- 1Cor. 10:26 - “For the earth is the LORD’S, and all its fullness.”

Our Relationship With God Regarding Money

- Abiding riches do not exist in this world
 - Matt. 6:19-21 - “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”
 - 2Cor. 8:9 - “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”

Our Relationship With God Regarding Money

- Neither wealth nor our lack of it assures our acceptability to God.
 - Prov. 30:8-9 - “Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches-Feed me with the food allotted to me; 9 Lest I be full and deny You, And say, Who is the LORD? Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.”
 - Psalm 51:17 - “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-These, O God, You will not despise.”

Our Relationship With God Regarding Money

- With the right spirit, it is possible to prosper and be faithful to God.
 - Gen. 14:21-23 - “Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself. 22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “ have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, 23 that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich’”

Our Relationship With God Regarding Money

- Heb. 11:24-26 - “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”
- Job 31:16-28

Reasons God Has Given For Wealth

- To share with the poor
 - Eph. 4:28 - “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.”
 - Acts 20:33-35 - “I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. 34 Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. 35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Reasons God Has Given For Wealth

- Gal. 2:10 - “They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.”
- Luke 19:8-9 - “Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold. 9 And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house...”

Reasons God Has Given For Wealth

- The Jews considered giving to the poor one of the three great personal righteousnesses; Jesus approved and clarified the matter
 - Matt. 6:1-4 - “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.”

Reasons God Has Given For Wealth

- When we give to the poor, we prove our love
 - 2Cor. 8:8 - “I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others.”
 - 1John 3:17 - “But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

Reasons God Has Given For Wealth

- To promote the work of the church
 - 1Cor. 16:1-2 - “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: 2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”

Reasons God Has Given For Wealth

- To provide for our needs; God knows we have needs
 - Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you”
- He wants us to care for our families
 - 1Tim. 5:8 - “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

Reasons God Has Given For Wealth

- To enjoy God's creation
 - 1Tim. 6:17 - "...nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy."
 - Ecc. 2:24 - "Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God."

Problems Associated With Wealth

- Wealth is often antagonistic to spirituality
 - Mark 10:23-25 - “Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! 24 And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

Problems Associated With Wealth

- Wealth can deceive and mislead
 - Matt. 13:22 - “Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.”

Problems Associated With Wealth

- Wealth can increase temptation
 - James 5:1-6
- Wealth can generate covetousness
 - Luke 12:13-21 - “...Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

Problems Associated With Wealth

- Wealth is temporary
 - James 1:9-10 - “Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, 10 but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away.”

The Children Of The World Already Know This

- “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)
- “A wise person should have money in their head, but not in their heart.” (Jonathan Swift)
- “He who loses money, loses much; He who loses a friend, loses much more; He who loses faith, loses all.” (Eleanor Roosevelt)

The Children Of The World Already Know This

- “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)
- “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)

God Wants His Children To Know This, Too

- Prov. 8:10-11 - “Receive my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold; 11 For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.”
- Prov. 15:16 - “Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, Than great treasure with trouble.”
- Prov. 13:7-8 - “There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches. 8 The ransom of a man's life is his riches, But the poor does not receive threats.” (ASV)

God Wants His Children To Know This, Too

- Prov. 22:2 - “The rich and the poor have this in common, The LORD is the maker of them all.”
- Prov. 1:19 - “So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners.”
- Prov. 14:31 - “He who oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is kind to the needy honors him.” (RSV)
- Prov. 19:17 - “He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.”

God Wants His Children To Know This, Too

- Prov. 3:9-10 - “Honor the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; 10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.”
- Prov. 23:4-5 - “Do not toil to acquire wealth; be wise enough to desist. 5 When your eyes light upon it, it is gone; for suddenly it takes to itself wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.”
- Prov. 10:2 - “Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death.”
- Prov. 11:4 - “Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.”