

PURPOSE IN LIFE

Understanding Money

Luke 16:1-13; 1 Tim. 6:6-10

God has a definite purpose in mind for us and He is working in our lives to accomplish that purpose. **Romans 8:28**, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.” Simply stated we are to glorify God in our bodies and our spirits in everything we do.

In order to do this we must study His word and learn what He requires of us, then strive to conduct our lives the way He has ordered. We learn that we are to surrender our lives to Him and be His servants. As we grow in this, we realize that we are not merely vassals at His disposal, but we are His sons, and He makes us as stewards of His property here on earth.

A steward is a servant who is entrusted with the management of property, finances, or other affairs not his own. The things he manages all belong to His Master.

A good steward fears his master. A good steward seeks to know his master’s will. A good steward is fully yielded to his Master’s control and remembers that he will have to give an exact accounting to the Master.

Stewardship begins with our bodies. It includes the manifold grace of God and the mysteries of God. Now we come to our stewardship of material possessions and money. The Bible has a great deal to say on the subject of material things. Sixteen of the Lord’s 38 parables deal with this. There are over 2,000 verses in the Bible that deal with money and possessions. This is five times more space than is given to prayer and faith. Only 500 plus verses are given for those important subjects. More is said in the New Testament about money than about Heaven and Hell. Why is this?

Money is important. We have to have at least some of it in order to get by in this world. It can also be a very deceitful item. That is why the Lord warns us. **Matthew 6:19-21**, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” **1 Timothy 6:9-10**, “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

We must develop a right attitude toward money. Mine is this, “Money is a necessary nuisance we have to put up with until we go to Heaven. It is necessary; therefore, we must manage it carefully.” Money is a wonderful servant, but it can become a tyrannical master. You either rule your money or money will rule you. It can easily slip in and become god without us realizing. We then begin to drown ourselves in destruction and perdition, and err from the faith and pierce ourselves through with many sorrows.

Our attitude toward money affects our health and wellbeing. Doctors tell us that all disease is related to stress. God tells us that our health is directly related to our obedience to Him. We are given a specific commandment concerning money. **Hebrews 13:5**, “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” Contentment is a choice. Contentment brings peace. Peace reduces stress.

When a person is focused on making money, money becomes his god. Therefore, we must understand what God has revealed to us about money.

I. ALL MONEY BELONGS TO GOD.

Luke 16:12, “And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?” **Haggai 2:8**, “The silver *is* mine, and the gold *is* mine, saith the LORD of hosts.” **Psalms 24:1**, “The earth *is* the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”

II. MONEY IS NOT ONE OF THE TRUE RICHES (Luke 16:9-11).

A. It is the measure of the value of things.

B. It is the mammon of unrighteousness (v.9).

C. It is the least of all riches (v.10).

D. It is the test of our faithfulness (v.11-12).

God makes it simple for us. He has established the tithe as the basic test of our faithfulness to correctly manage His money entrusted to us. This also helps to avoid the deceitfulness of riches.

III. MONEY CAN BECOME YOUR MASTER (Luke 16:13; 1 Tim. 6:7-10).

A. It makes a fierce master.

1. It is not wrong to have money.

2. It is wrong to love money.

a. It leads into temptation and snares and foolish and hurtful lusts.

b. It drowns men in destruction and perdition and causes all kind of evil.

Whether it be covetousness; envy; cheating; robbery; fornication; adultery; murder, every sin we commit against God is in some way rooted in the love of money.

c. It leads away from the faith (1 Tim. 6:10, 17).

B. It can keep a person from being saved (Matt. 19:16-22).

C. It can keep us from being true disciples.

Luke 14:33, “So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”

D. It can keep us from laying hold on eternal life (1 Tim. 6:11-12, 17-19).

“Lay hold on eternal life,” means to appropriate all the benefits, privileges and responsibilities involved in the possession of it.

1. The Christian has eternal life now (1 John 5:13).

a. You received it at the moment of salvation (John 3:15-16, 36).

b. You cannot lose it (John 3:18; 5:24; 6:37; 10:27-30).

2. The Christian must appropriate eternal life now.

a. Make practical use if its benefits.

1) You are accepted in the beloved.

2) You do not have to fear physical death.

b. Make practical use if its privileges.

1) You are a child of God (John 1:12).

2) You are a joint heir with Christ and Heaven is your home.

c. Make practical use of its responsibilities.

1) You are to manage God's things in light of eternity.

2) You are to live so that others can see the difference.

3) You are to share that life with others.

The unrighteous are worried about money and it becomes their god. It is the mammon of unrighteousness. Some are allowed to get it only to find that it does not produce lasting happiness. The ones who seek God's righteousness become less and less concerned about money. God supplies all that we need to do the job He wants us to do, and He also gives us abiding joy and happiness.

If you are a child of God, you are wealthy beyond imagination. You need not worry yourself about the riches of this world. You need only be concerned with managing your Father's property according to His directions.

Are you a child of God? That is absolutely necessary. It is imperative that you trust Jesus Christ as your only Saviour.