

Lesson 9 – Money and Possessions

INTRODUCTION

In the previous lesson, we discovered that identifying and fulfilling biblical priorities is essential to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Another important aspect of a growing relationship with Jesus Christ is developing a proper attitude toward wealth. This lesson will provide a biblical understanding of our money and possessions.

DOES GOD WANT CHRISTIANS TO BE POOR?

There is a lot of confusion among Christians about whether a person can be wealthy and also be pleasing to God. Read the following verse and identify what Scripture reveals about the relationship between money and evil.

1 Timothy 6:10

The Bible does not say that MONEY is the root of all evil. It says, the LOVE of money is the root of all kinds of evil. There are many people in the Scriptures who had great wealth and at the same time were pleasing to God – Solomon and Job are two of them.

2 Chronicles 1:7-12

Job 1:1-3, 8

Nowhere in the Bible does God specifically condemn anyone for being wealthy. Instead, His concern is always about our attitude toward wealth. Solomon was the wealthiest man in history and God gave him riches because of a humble attitude. Job was the wealthiest man of his time and was described by God as a man who shunned evil. You don't have to be poor to please God!

HOW CAN MONEY INTERFERE WITH MY RELATIONSHIP TO GOD?

By trusting in money, rather than trusting in God.

Proverbs 11:28

By setting our affections on earthly possessions rather than heavenly possessions.

Matthew 6:19-21

Colossians 3:1, 2

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By thinking that God's blessings are measured by our material possessions.

Luke 12:15

By making our life's ambition to earn as much money as possible.

Proverbs 23:4, 5

WHAT ATTITUDES DOES GOD WANT ME TO DEVELOP TOWARD POSSESSIONS?

First and foremost, be content with the possessions you have.

Hebrews 13:5

Realize that wisdom and understanding are far more important than material possessions.

Proverbs 16:16

Don't be envious of someone else's possessions.

Exodus 20:17

Avoid invitations to participate in "get rich quick" schemes.

Proverbs 28:20

If God chooses to bless you with material possessions don't forget to honor Him.

Deuteronomy 6:10-12

CONCLUSION

One of the greatest challenges to developing our relationship with Jesus Christ is properly responding to our culture emphasis on materialism. Through the media and advertising we are constantly bombarded with messages that we need more, bigger, and better. Responding to this challenge requires that we distinguish between our needs and our wants. God promises to meet our needs; physically and spiritually (Philippians 4:19). By determining our needs and embracing God's promise to meet them, we can rest satisfied in His provision.

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HOMEWORK

In the space below, identify as many of your earthly possessions as you can.

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-8. According to these verses, our most basic needs are food and clothing. Review your list of earthly possessions. Place an “N” next to the possessions that are needs and a “W” next to the possessions that are wants.

Now, read Philippians 4:19. According to this verse, God has promised to meet our needs. In the space below, identify as many ways as you can how God provided for your physical needs.

Have you ever reflected on the ways God provides for your physical needs? In the space below, describe how reflecting on God’s provision makes you feel?