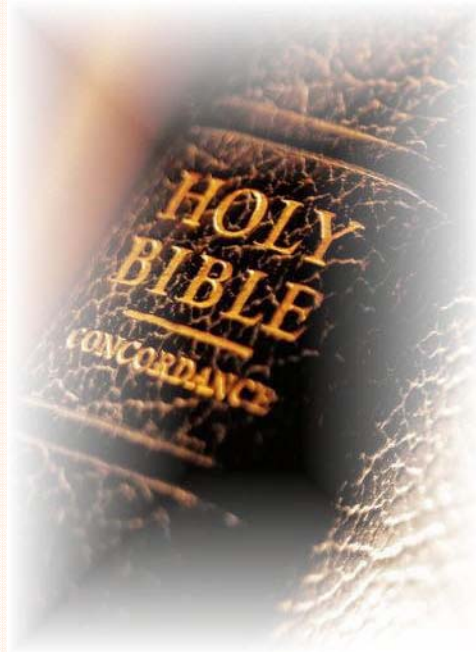


Money, Possessions & Eternity



1 Timothy 6:10 (New Century Version)

The love of money causes all kinds of evil. Some people have left the faith, because they wanted to get more money, but they have caused themselves much sorrow.

Presented by: Jerry Troyer

Why is it so important for us to believe we need to be wealthy?

We presume we can buy happiness.

We believe we will be able to get everything we want.

We firmly believe we have a right to do anything we want, at any time we want, anywhere we want. With money that can be accomplished, we think.

We have somehow convinced ourselves that it is our inherit right to have it all and to have it now.

Does materialism buy us happiness and contentment?

WHOSE MONEY IS IT?

Let's see what the Bible says:

¹⁴"Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it. Deut. 10:14

¹¹ 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. I Chron. 29:11

¹ The earth *is* the LORD's, and all its fullness,
The world and those who dwell therein.
² For He has founded it upon the seas,
And established it upon the waters. Psalm 24:1-2

'The silver *is* Mine, and the gold *is* Mine,' says the LORD of hosts.
Haggai 2:8

²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body^[a]
and in your spirit, which are God's.

Let's see what some of the wealthiest Americans have said about money.

John D. Rockefeller : “ I have made many millions, but they have brought me no happiness.”

Andrew Carnegie : “ Millionaires seldom smile.”

Henry Ford: “I was happier when doing a mechanic's job.”

John Jacob Astor: “ I am the most miserable man on earth.”

W. H. Vanderbilt: “ The care of \$200,000,000 is enough to kill anyone. There is no pleasure in it.

Yet, for some reason we think we would be the exception to the rule.

Thomas Carlyle writes: “Adversity is hard on a man, but for one man who can stand prosperity, there are a hundred that will stand adversity.”

Hosea 13:6 says, “When I fed them, they were satisfied,; when they were satisfied, they became proud, then they forgot me.”

The DANGERS of DEBT!

Debt is especially dangerous when a possession's resale value is less than what we owe (car, furniture, etc.)

Debt is especially dangerous when it tempts us to violate our convictions.

- Have to go to the desert on weekends we have the toys. We have to go enjoy them.

Debt is especially dangerous when we are tempted to rob our Primary creditor (God) to pay our secondary creditors (men).

Debt is especially dangerous when our monthly payments strap us to the point that we have little freedom to respond to the Holy Spirit's promptings to give generously to meet others' needs.

Debt is especially dangerous when it restricts our freedom to respond to the Holy Spirit's call to make a move or change.

Consequences of Debt

Debt lingers

Debt causes worry and stress.

Debt causes denial of reality.

Debt can lead to dishonesty.

Debt is addictive.

Debt is presumptuous.

Debt deprives God of the chance to say no or to provide through a better means.

Debt is a major loss of opportunity.

Debt ties up money that could be used to advance the kingdom of God.

The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is a servant to the lender. Prov. 22:7

Provision for the giver

Proverbs 11:24-25 (New King James Version)

24 There is *one* who scatters, yet increases more;
And there is *one* who withholds more than is right,
But it *leads* to poverty.
25 The generous soul will be made rich,
And he who waters will also be watered himself.

Luke 6:38 (New King James Version)

38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down,
shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom.
For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

2 Corinthians 9:6 (New King James Version)

But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Proverbs 20:7 (New King James Version)

7 The righteous *man* walks in his integrity;
His children *are* blessed after him.

What do I do? I'm stuck in a financial mess?

Or perhaps you are experiencing a reduction in income, want to find a way to tithe, or need help to figure it all out.

- **There are some really good programs:**

The Malachi Group, Inc. - Mastering Money

Financial Peace

Crown Ministries

Good Sense

And others.

- **Do not check with your friends or co-workers unless they are professionals at money management and financial literacy.**
- **Do find professionally trained people to help you through.**
- **A faith-based plan will help you with tithing.**

TITHING and GIVING

Malachi 3:10 (New King James Version)

10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,
That there may be food in My house,
And try Me now in this,”
Says the LORD of hosts,

“ If I will not open for you the windows of heaven
And pour out for you *such* blessing
That *there will not be room enough to receive it.*

After completing a “Planned Spending Program” and you understand how much you can give – Do it without exception. Even if it is \$1.

Make a plan of how to increase giving to God.

Decide if you can give up something – dining out, entertainment, etc.

As you receive raises on the job, give God a raise.

Watch, Be Ready, Fight the Good Fight, Endure

Wait actively in the Lord.

Do the little things that cheer God's heart, as you wait.

Let the joy of your heart's love to God flow onto Him.

God is making a way - Ps. 46:1 &2a "God is our refuge and strength a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear....."

Waiting actively – Not resolving with ways known to every man. Wait for God's answer from His infinite wisdom – Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

God has a plan. Bigger than what we can reason. Thank Him in advance that He is answering your prayers now in a way that you will see clearly that it came from Him.

Stay active in church, home groups, service. Read the Bible. Pray for others.

Living out Life Stop seeking Happiness

BLESSED – ASHREY

In the Sermon on The Mount , Jesus spoke of those being blessed who are meek, poor in spirit, mourn, hunger and thirst for righteousness. Along with other statement of blessed.

The Hebrew word for blessed is Ashrey. It doesn't just mean "blessed" it also means "happy", or literally, "How Happy!" Ashrey is derived from a Hebrew word for "straight" or "right". For in the end, the way of happiness and the way of righteousness always turn out to be the same path.

Do you want to be happy? Stop seeking happiness. Seek righteousness instead. Seek what is right, believe what is right, receive what is right, do what is right, walk in what is right, live by what is right.

All the rest will be added unto you. God's way is the way of true joy. Follow it and you will be blessed and no, not only blessed but happy.... And not only happy but you'll arrive at How Happy! Joy will consume you.

The way of righteousness and joy are the same path.