

Money and the Revealing of our Hearts

www.ncvchurch.com

Introduction: A Bible study of money is in essence a study of our very hearts!

A. We cannot have the necessary elements of life without money.

1. What is money? In the Bible it represents metal that has a value.

Money - χαλκός, οὐ, ὄ (1) as the metal itself *copper, brass* (an alloy of copper and zinc), *bronze* (an alloy of copper and tin) (RV 18.12); (2) as anything made of this metal, such as *gong* (1C 13.1), *copper coins* (MT 10.9); more generally *money* (MK 12.41)

2. When the Bible speaks of money or physical riches we are talking about *physical things and possessions*.

3. You can have money or *the things money can buy*.

B. Throughout time men have done extreme things for money. (Prov 28:21; Lk 22:3-6)

1. How do we view our worth and find our fulfillment?

2. The struggle between the seen and the unseen is as old as man. Every generation must face this *powerful choice* as to *how we see all things!*

I. Each man must choose between loving God or money

A. What is our understanding of where real treasure is found?

1. There are two contrary systems of which *we must choose*. (Rom 8:5-8)

2. You cannot choose both! We can *easily deceive ourselves* as to our real choice.

3. When this choice is made our hearts and our lives *will follow!* (Lk 12:32-34)

B. God wants us to often think about why serving God is *the right choice*.

1. A wrong choice has *terrible, consistent consequences*. (1 Tim 6:9-10; Gal 6:7)

2. What arguments might a man make for money as a basis for a happy life?

3. What if you have money but *do not have God*? There are some things money cannot buy! (Prov 11:4; Lk 12:19-21)

4. We can state these truths as facts but still have money as our “foundation.” There is *great deceit* in a man who loves money. (Mt 13:22)

C. It is crucial that we develop a *God-centered concept* about our value in this life. (Jer 9:23-24)

1. How do we develop these concepts? Who is praised? Who are our “heroes?”

2. We can inadvertently be teaching our children a very wrong value concerning physical things. What does *your life speak concerning money?*

3. Are you rich or poor? (discuss) (Prov 13:6-8)

4. We must *develop a “taste” for spiritual things*. This is not true of money.

II. Our love of God will drive us to seek the wisdom of God concerning money

A. God’s wisdom *put things in their proper value*. (1 Tim 6:6-9)

1. Things decay over time. Consider what 20 years will bring.

2. God knows what will *really fulfill us!*

3. Consider *the “lottery syndrome.”* (Jer 17:11)

4. When God is in view, earthly things are *put in their place*. (1 Chron 29:11-14)

- B. God wisdom reveals that all we have is a gift. *We are only stewards!*
1. All spiritual blessings are *entrusted to us* as stewards. **(1 Cor 4:1-2, 7)**
 2. When we deny this truth we are lifted up by pride and become blind to all things. We think we are something when we *simply have been given gifts!*
 3. Consider Israel's failure to *see their stewardship* in physical things. **(Deut 8:17-18)**
 4. How many fools were given riches and *forgot God?* **(Lk 12:20-21)**
- C. Our *handling of money* will show how we handle spiritual riches. **(Lk 16:9-13)**
1. Money is not to be thrown away or treated lightly. (Ex. Young man throwing quarters out the window)
 2. There is *a set of priorities* God expects of us concerning money.
 3. When God's people *give themselves to the Lord*, then their money will be used with a spiritual priority! **(2 Cor 8:1-5)**
 4. There is a direct correlation between how we handle money and our *present and future* spiritual blessings. **(Mt 6:19-25; Lk 12:32-34)**

III. We need to clearly see the attitude of our hearts towards money

- A. The heart is very deceitful. We must constantly be reminded of *our need of humility*.
1. Brethren we need to hear God's wisdom given to the rich. **(James 1:9-11)**
 2. We can make choices that *block out from our association* all but those who are have similar possessions to ourselves. THINK!
- B. The acid test comes when spiritual things and money *come into conflict*. **(Heb 11:24-27)**
1. Which is better – riches or suffering? It *depends on what or whom you love*.
 2. Your choices come with associates! Who was King Saul's friend? **(Psa 52:7-8)**
 3. What do you *dream and meditate about?* Many Christians have considered themselves "faithful" while cultivating thorns in their hearts.
- C. Hypocrisy comes in *various masks*. Some cover a heart of covetousness.
1. God sought to *open the hearts* of those who equated riches with spirituality. **(Hosea 12:8; Micah 6:10-12)**
 2. The most respected spiritual leaders of Jesus' day were the Pharisees. *What did God see* when their hearts were opened to Him? **(Lk 16:13-14; Jn 5:40-42)**
 3. May our Lord help us to have the right view of money and thus of *our real purpose in life!* **(Prov 30:7-9)**

Conclusion: May we find peace with God and wisdom to handle our stewardship.