

THE CHRISTIAN AND MONEY

1 Timothy 6:6-10,17-19

INTRODUCTION

- We are studying a subject today that is very close to many people's hearts: money.
- The subject of money should be a part of the Biblical preaching of God's word, because the Bible has a great deal to say on the subject.
- The Lord Jesus spoke more about money than any other single subject, and most of it was in a negative light.
- Money is a necessary part of life. (2 Thessalonians 3:10)
- Having money is usually not the problem, but it is a problem when money has you.

I. TRUE WEALTH IS IN PIETY WITH CONTENTMENT (6-8)

A. Some wrongly think that material gain equates to godliness (5)

B. But true "gain" is not temporal or material

1. Material things are transitory
2. We enter this world with nothing, and leave it the same way (Job 1:21; Ecclesiastes 5:15)

C. Godliness is true gain

1. Godliness is a major theme in the pastoral epistles (2:2,10; 3:16; 4:7-8; 6:3,5-6,11)
2. *Eusebeia* can also translated as "holiness" and "piety"
3. It describes the whole of genuine Christian religion
4. Godliness is gain because it profits in this life and the next (1 Timothy 4:8)

D. Contentment

1. Contentment is being satisfied with one's lot in life
2. It is a state of mind that humbly acquiesces to what God has given
3. The contented soul does not murmur or complain
4. We can be content with the necessities of life (1 Timothy 6:8; Hebrews 13:5-6)
5. One can be content in any situation
6. Contentment must be learned (Philippians 4:11-13)
 - a. By living with an eternal perspective in life (1 John 2:17)
 - b. By rejecting the world's standards of "success" (Luke 12:15)

II. THERE IS A WARNING OF THE PERIL OF COVETOUSNESS (9-10)

A. The temptation and snare of covetousness (9)

1. These people have a desire for to be rich (Ecclesiastes 5:10)
2. Instead of seeing money as a means to support life, it becomes the end of life itself
3. They will certainly fall (Proverbs 28:20)

B. The root and fruit of covetousness (10)

1. It is not money, but the *love* of it that brings evil
2. All kinds of evil flow from the love of money (Matthew 13:22)
3. This covetousness draws men away from truth and godliness (Matthew 6:24)
4. It causes untold suffering (2 Kings 5:27; Matthew 27:5)

III. THE WEALTHY MUST SHUN PROUD CONFIDENCE (17-19)

- A. It is not a sin to be rich
 - 1. Abraham (Genesis 13:2)
 - 2. David (1 Chronicles 29:28)
 - 3. Joseph of Arimathaea (Matthew 27:57)
 - 4. Barnabas (Acts 4:27)

- B. Increased riches bring increased temptation
 - 1. "In proportion to the increase of wealth, so is the love of it."
 - 2. Riches draw the heart to put confidence in them (Psalm 62:10)

- C. The rich must guard against pride
 - 1. God resists the proud (James 4:6)
 - 2. All that we have ultimately comes from God (Deuteronomy 8:18; 1 Samuel 2:7)

- D. The rich must not trust in riches
 - 1. They are uncertain (Proverbs 23:5)
 - 2. They are insufficient (Luke 12:16-32)
 - 3. God alone can be trusted (Jeremiah 9:23-24)
 - 4. God has given us all things to enjoy and to use for His glory

- E. The believer is to be laying up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21)
 - 1. By being rich in good works (cf. Luke 12:21)
 - a. Doing good and serving God should be the priority and focus of our lives (Mat. 6:33).

- b. We have been saved for this purpose (Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14)
2. By distributing riches
- a. By giving alms and helping those in need (Deuteronomy 15:7-8; Isaiah 58:7; Acts 11:29; Galatians 6:10; 1 John 3:17)
 - b. By giving to the church for the work of the Great Commission (1 Corinthians 9:11-14; Galatians 6:6; Philippians 4:15-16; Titus 3:13-14; 3 John 5-8)

CONCLUSION

1. No man can serve two masters (Matthew 6:24)
2. What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Mark 8:36)
3. If godliness is true gain, then it should be the primary objective in our lives
4. True riches are laid up in heaven, not in this world (Proverbs 11:24-26; 13:7)
5. Can we truly say we are content in life?

*He that is down needs fear no fall;
 He that is low, no pride;
 He that is humble, ever shall
 Have God to be his Guide.*

*I am content with what I have,
 Little be it or much;
 And, Lord, contentment still I crave,
 Because Thou savest such.*

*Fullness to such a burden is,
 That go on pilgrimage;
 Here little, and hereafter bliss,
 Is best from age to age.*

John Bunyan (16280-1688)