

The Christian & Wealth

By John Racz – 2008

“There is much said about wealth in the Bible. It is the” touchiest” of subjects, and many preachers either ignore it or are afraid to even mention the subject. Many churches and marriages have split because of it, and by simply understanding the Bible approach to wealth management and by learning from its lessons we will all be much better off. The Bible is full people who were wealthy or rich, as it shows; how about Abraham and Lot? How about Job or Solomon? In the New Testament many believe that Jesus surrounded himself with only the poor; tax collectors, fishermen, etc, which he did; but how do you explain Joseph of Arimethaea? Not only was he rich, but he was one of Jesus’ disciples, so we have both rich and poor--all of God’s children--represented.

How they managed their God-given wealth is the question, and many did not do so well. The Bible concepts of wealth management work for the richest as well as the poorest of church members. The Bible is still the greatest of guide books, and the answers are there.

The whole goal here is to help us manage our wealth (and I do mean money) better than we do now. Technically we are all money managers by default. How well we manage our wealth is the question.”

Money - “A Curse And A Blessing” (A Christian Perspective)

From the beginning of mankind man has been given the responsibility of working and taking care of his family. We can blame it on Adam when God said;

“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return” Gen 3:19.

“Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken” Gen 3:23.

So, Adam (man) was driven from the Garden of Eden "to till the ground" and was from then on to work by the sweat of his face! You may remember that Adam was given the job of taking care of the garden, so he knew how to be a "farmer." The fruit of his labors was food, clothing and the basic necessities of life, I’m sure. We will work as well with the only difference being the fruits of OUR labors being the "commodity" money.

Curse

So what is the curse? Is the curse money? No, not really. I propose to you that the curse is the fact that money is the great corruptor. Solomon, who prayed for wisdom and got it big time, later in his life he blew it; even his sons went off into idolatry. The smartest man in the world allowed his wealth to corrupt him. So, our wealth (money) can corrupt us as well.

How about the gambler?

Those who allow GREED to drive them are in for a big surprise! Here are a few Bible verses to remember on this.

"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." I Timothy 6:10

Jesus said: "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, but lose his own soul." Matthew 16:26.

"A fool and his money are soon parted." The paraphrased version of: "Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven." Proverbs 23:5 (right out of your wallet or purse)

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Cor 10:13 (How about leaving the credit card home and using a check?)

Why do you suppose Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness by offering him the world? Are we financially weak and easily tempted? We must be careful as Christians; our wealth comes with conditions. There is so much bad said about being rich in the Bible that we almost feel ashamed at having money. The parable of the talents Matthew 25:14-46 is worth reading.

Blessings

The blessings are the easy part. They make us happy, do they not? If money is used properly, blessings will be received; for without money, where would our churches be? The faithful members with their tithes and offerings are a blessing to Jesus' church. It keeps it going.

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; I Tim 6:17 & 18

Work

Remember, like Adam we work. What is work? What does the Bible say about working? It is the ability to make wealth, Is it not?

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth,... Deuteronomy 8:18.

I was a mechanic most of my working life, and one of the greatest compliments can be given a mechanic is to say; "Boy, you sure have a good pair of hands." But it was God who really who

bestowed the gift. The same can be said about any profession, how about an accountant: "Boy, he sure is good with numbers." We must ALWAYS remember that it is with God's help we have our jobs to make the money to provide for our families, and we cannot allow the money to corrupt us, for we must be good stewards of all that God provides.

Why Work? Because God says so!

But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. I Timothy 5:8

How can I be a better steward - tell me the ways.

One, -- we must change our way of thinking about money.

Two, Money is a commodity--something to be used.

Def. "Something useful that can be turned to commercial or other advantage."
American Heritage Dictionary

Why do you suppose banks do not seem to be too concerned about inflation or downturns in the economy--mmmm? They see money as a *commodity*, to be bought and sold for a profit. They manage their assets (money) well.

What is Money Management?

Discipline and a budget plan designed by YOU to fit your income and expenses, with set priorities. With God's help you can do it. Start simple and stick to it and remember to resist temptations. Adjust your priorities when necessary.

Become a good steward, tithe your local church, and God will bless.