

GOD'S GIFT OF GIVING

#4 WEALTH: THE DANGEROUS BLESSING

Proverbs 30:7-9 1 Timothy 6:2-10, 17-19

1 THE DANGEROUS DESIRE TO BE RICH

A. The Sad Object Lesson of the False Teachers (Acts 20:29-30)

B. A Biblical Base Line for Wealth & Our Measure for Contentment

Jb. 1:1 And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return.

Php. 4:11-13 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Act. 5:4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal?

C. A Deeper Diagnosis of the Desire to Be Rich

Luk. 12:15 And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Luk. 16:13-14 "No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him.

Col. 3:5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

D. Impaled on the Thorny Path of Greed

Mat. 13:22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

Luk. 18:24-25 Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, "How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

2 THE BLESSED POTENTIAL OF THE RICH IN THIS PRESENT AGE

A. More Warnings First, with a Corrective Against Asceticism

B. The Wealth That Counts: How to Be Rich in Good Works

Luk. 18:28-30 And Peter said, "See, we have left our homes and followed you." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."

Eph. 4:28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

C. How to Take It With You

Luk. 12:32-33 "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.

2Cor. 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM Q. 73-75, 104

Q Which is the eighth commandment?

A The eighth commandment is, "You shalt not steal."¹

Q What is required in the eighth commandment?

A The eighth commandment requires the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others.¹

Q What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?

A The eighth commandment forbids whatsoever does or may unjustly hinder our own or our neighbor's wealth or outward estate.¹

Q What do we pray for in the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer?

A In the fourth petition (which is, "Give us this day our daily bread"¹) we pray, that of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.²

Amen.

¹ Exod. 20:15 //// 1 Gen. 30:30; 1 Tim. 5:8; Lev. 25:35; Deut. 22:1-5; Exod. 23:4,5; Gen. 47:14,20 //// 1 Prov. 21:17; Prov. 23:20,21; Prov. 28:19; Eph. 4:28 //// 1 Matt. 6:11 2 Prov. 30:8,9; Gen. 28:20; 1 Tim. 4:4,5