

**True Joy - The Wisdom of Philippians**  
***Rejoice in the Lord - For His Provision (Phil 4:14-20)***  
**8-22-10**  
**Scripture Reading - Phil 4:10-20**

Money can be a very dangerous thing

**Matthew 6:19-24 (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>22</sup> "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! <sup>24</sup> "No one can serve two masters. 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 both God and Money.

Let's try and follow Jesus logic here...

- Where your treasure is there your heart will also be.
  - We love what we treasure. We treasure what we love.
  
- No one can serve two masters.
  - We serve what we treasure. We serve what we love. And we cannot treasure, love, and serve two things at once.
  - Therefore, we cannot treasure, love, and serve God and something else at the same time. It is impossible according to Jesus.
  - We can say that we treasure, love, and serve God all we want, but if we treasure, love, and serve something else, we know it can't be true.
  
- God wants to be, deserves to be, and should be our treasure, but for many of us He's not because Money is instead.

- o Money is what we treasure, money is what we love, money is what we serve, money is what we're devoted to, Money is our master instead of God.
- o The reason this is dangerous is three-fold
  - Money is temporal
  - Money is a cruel master
  - If Money is our master, we won't go to Heaven
    - **Matthew 7:21 (NIV)**  
<sup>21</sup>"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
    - We can't pull the wool over Jesus eyes. He knows and looks at our hearts and actions, not our words. On the Day of Judgment, only those who say to Him Lord, Lord *and truly mean it* will enter His kingdom. We cannot serve both God and Money.

It is not money itself that is dangerous, *it is the love of it.*

### **1 Timothy 6:6-10 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup>But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup>For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. <sup>8</sup>But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. <sup>9</sup>People *who want to get rich* fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For *the love of money* is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

### **1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup>Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup>Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup>In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Though the Philippians had plenty of problems, the love of money wasn't one of them.

- In fact, as we'll see in a minute, the Philippians were models of what our attitude toward money should be.
- None-the-less, couched in Paul's closing thank you for the gift they'd sent him in prison, are six truths about money that can really help us in our battle against the love of it.

6 truths about money that can help free us from the love of money

1) We can be content with or without it

a. **Philippians 4:10-13 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup>I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. <sup>11</sup>Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

2) We can use our money to advance the Gospel.

a. **Philippians 4:15-16 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup>And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. <sup>16</sup>Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.

- b. The Philippians' generosity helped Paul advance the Gospel
- c. Your generosity helps us advance the Gospel
- d. Hankins

3) We can use our money to advance the Gospel, even if we don't have a lot of it.

a. **2 Corinthians 8:1-4 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup>for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their *extreme poverty* have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup>For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, *and beyond their means*, of their own free will, <sup>4</sup>begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints

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4) When we use our money to advance the Gospel we are storing up treasures in Heaven.

a. **Philippians 4:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup>Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.

b. **Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup>"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

c. **Matthew 6:2-4 (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup>"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. *Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

5) When we use our money to advance the Gospel we are worshipping God.

a. **Philippians 4:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup>I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied,

having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

- b. Just as the OT believer worshipped God by giving generously of their flocks and fields, so the NT believer worships God by giving generously of their money.
- c. When we use our money to advance the Gospel, not only is God worshipped by us, but He is worshipped by others as well.

- i. **2 Corinthians 9:11-13 (ESV)**

- <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us *will produce thanksgiving to God*. <sup>12</sup> For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is *also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God*. <sup>13</sup> By their approval of this service, *they will glorify God* because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others,

6) When we use our money to advance the Gospel, God promises to provide ALL our needs

- a. **Philippians 4:19 (ESV)**

- <sup>19</sup> And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

- b. **2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (ESV)**

- <sup>6</sup> The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." <sup>10</sup> He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the

harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

- c. J's story
  - i. Job switch, pay reduction, stopped tithing
  - ii. Dad asked, not a good idea, Malachi 3

1. **Malachi 3:8-10 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

- iii. Trusted God, started tithing again
- iv. Next week our vacuum check in mailbox, \$300 mix-up in account (credit), pay raise to more than he was making before

## Conclusion

- Money in and of itself is not a bad thing, in fact it can be used for much good.
- The problem with money is that it has such potential to master us.
- We can guard our hearts against the love of money by...
  - o Realizing that with Jesus help, we can be content with or without it
  - o Using our money to advance the Gospel even if we don't have a lot of it.
  - o Realizing that when we use our money to advance the Gospel we are storing up treasures in Heaven and worshipping God

- o Trusting that when we use our money to advance the Gospel, God will richly provide for all our needs.

**Prayer Team - Jess and Bert**