

# COMBER FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“How to experience close fellowship with the Lord”

Bible studies in Psalm 15 with

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(Moderator of Presbytery)

## MESSAGE 6

### **The Believer's Wealth** V5

Both Old and New Testaments teach that the way we relate to money affects our fellowship with the Lord.

Out of 38 of

Christ's parables 16 are to do with the subject of possessions. : Over 2,000 verses have to do with this subject.

God is concerned with-

#### **1. OUR ACQUISITION OF MONEY**

Ps 15:5 teaches that all money gained at the expense of others is prohibited to the person who yearns to abide in the presence of God.

Usury is another name for interest. According to Deut 23: 19- 20 19 the Jew was not to lend money on interest to a needy Jewish brother. He was to assist generously and unselfishly.

He was not to profit out of a brother's misfortune. Usury could be charged to a stranger.

Scripture does not condemn the obtaining of fair interest on investments. If it did, why would Christ have commended wise investments in Matt 25:27 and in Luke 19:23?

However, there is a vast difference between making a profit and profiteering from the hardship of others.

Bribery is forbidden. Sadly, in many countries the wheels of justice

never move unless they are well oiled--by money. The godly man will not bribe with money, praise, promotion or backhanders of any kind.

The man who is greedy of gain and who is not too scrupulous about what he does to make money has no place as God's guest in His House. Losing fellowship with the Lord by acquiring wealth in a dishonest way is too great a price to pay.

Lev 19:9-18 contains laws from God prohibiting such things and commanding the Israelite to care for the poor.

While we rightly emphasise the need to help the spiritually poor we dare not ignore the commands to feed and clothe the materially poor. To do so is to reveal that in spite of our loud professions of devotion to the Lord our religion is vain.

[James 1:26, 27; 2: 15, 16] Ps 69:33 'The Lord heareth the poor' DO WE?

The book of Proverbs has much to say on the subject of money.

## **2 OUR ATTITUDE TO MONEY**

The text refers to 'his money'. Our attitude to the money God has permitted us to have acquired is important.

### ***We are not to love it.***

How tragic to let it become the motivation of our life. 'It is better to have your bank in heaven than to have your heaven in a bank.'

Such love for money causes people to "err from the faith" and brings many sorrows. [1 Tim 6: 1 0]

Covetousness is listed along with uncleanness and other vile sins. E.g. Eph 5:3

Society's philosophy seems to be 'Love money and use people to get it, while God's attitude is: 'Love people and use money to bless them'.

### ***We are not to trust in riches.***

[Mark 10:24; Ps 52:7]

Remember the rich young ruler and Judas who was a thief. These men lost spiritual riches by their love of money.

### **3. OUR ADMINISTRATION OF MONEY**

It has often been stated that the majority of problems in a home is due to improper administration of funds.

We can *SPEND* money and enjoy what it can buy. 1Tim 6:17

It is good to *SAVE* some of our money. It is wise to live at a level a little lower than our income and save for the future.

We should *TITHE* our money [Deut 14:22-27; 16:6; Mal 3: 10]. This was given to the maintenance of the House of God.

We should *GIVE* our money. Israel also had another tithe, which was to be distributed among the poor. [Deut 26:12]  
Giving, is at the heart of the Gospel, ' For God so loved...He gave.' John 3:16.

### **3. OUR ATTITUDE TO TITHING REVEALS IF WE:**

#### ***FEAR GOD***

If we fear Him, we will obey His commandments. Some Christians will pay their taxes to the government but not pay their tithe to the Lord. They must fear the government more than they fear God.

#### ***TRUST GOD***

God challenges us to bring the tithes and offerings into the storehouse and to put Him to the test. [MAL 3: 1 0] How we give reveals just how much we believe God.

#### ***LOVE GOD***

If we love Him, His commandments will not be grievous to us; He who loves much will give much. 2 Cor ch 8&9 have to do with the matter of offerings.

V8:8-9 sets forth what should be the motive of our giving i.e.

knowing the grace of Christ. Note:-

*THE POSITION OF CHRIST...* 'He was rich'.

*THE POVERTY OF CHRIST...* 'He became poor'.

*THE PURPOSE OF CHRIST...* 'That ye...might be rich'.

This is to become the PATTERN for our lives as followers of Christ.

We are to give ourselves and our money to help others

Ch 8:5 sets forth what should be the manner of our giving i.e. first give ourselves.

As you, ' survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died' surely you will want to give an offering of your body to the Lord as a living sacrifice. [Rom 12:1-3]

When you do so then all you are and have is given to Him.

Then your mind is renewed and you are transformed. It is then you will enjoy God's good will for our life.

The true measure of our yieldedness to the Lordship of Christ and the depth of our fellowship with Him is seen in the measure of our stewardship.

There are spiritual debts to pay as well as material. Roms 1:14; 8:12; 15:27

If we by God's grace seek to have this practical Holiness in our lives then we will enjoy close fellowship with the Lord and 'shall never be moved'. v5

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