

# WHAT SHOULD OUR ATTITUDE BE TOWARDS MONEY?

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## INTRODUCTION – THE BIBLE AND MONEY

Money can be a good servant, but it is a very poor master! The Bible speaks a lot about money. We all work with money every day, so it is important to know what the Bible says about this topic.

- Jesus offers more wisdom and has more to say about money than almost any other subject besides the "Kingdom of God."
- Roughly 15% of Jesus' preaching was about money and wealth.
- Jesus speaks more about money than about love.
- The Bible deals more with money than prayer.
- About eleven of the 39 parables He tells is about finances.
- There are more than 2000 verses dealing with money and wealth.

We must understand the bigger picture or else we will not understand why the Bible deals with the topic of money so much.

## WE LIVE IN A MONEY AND GREED DRIVEN WORLD

The Western economy (but most countries today) is built upon consumerism. We are encouraged to spend and keep on spending. We are encouraged to desire things we don't have and to be greedy in until we have it. Advertisements will encourage you to buy things that you don't need. In fact, they aim to create the need. They have mastered the art of manipulating fleshly sinful human desire into wanting more and more without ever being satisfied.

The heartbeat of our economic system is based on greed and people will offer up almost anything to satisfy that greed. It's all about self-gratification, pleasure, power and control.

We are encouraged to spend our money before we even get it. We are told that it is okay to borrow against our future. Society is living on debt. Governments are voted into power based on their promises to maintain the standard of living. People spend future money that they hope they will have to buy things now that they often do not need in order to maintain a standard of living. We are taught that the secret of happiness is money and people will sacrifice self, family, friends to get more money. Also, people sacrifice God as well. What is he worth? The worth of a person these days is determined by their wealth. God does not see it this way.

Money makes people feel superior and you tend to look down on those who have not achieved what you have. That is wrong. People want money because it gives you power.

Money enables you to control people, their loyalty, etc. Getting richer is like a drug. It becomes an obsession and addiction.

## **GOD KNOWS THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM**

God in His wisdom knows that we have to deal with this incredibly strong and powerful deception that promises us the world but in the end delivers hell. Therefore, the Bible provides us with principles to help us remain on track while on this earth. It is all about worship. Satan gets you to worship him by attracting you with temporary rewards.

As Christians, our heart must be to follow after the Lord fully.

## **DO NOT COVET**

Let's explore this important principle.

### **Exodus 20:17**

"You shall not covet (delight in) your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

In the ten commandments, greed (coveting) is forbidden.

Our modern economic system, marketing and advertising are all relying on coveting to operate successfully.

## **JESUS' TEMPTATION (Matthew 4:1-11)**

Satan took Jesus to a very high mountain to show Him all the kingdoms of the world. He offered to hand them all over to Christ if He would bow down and worship him (vv. 8-9). We are often tempted by this same temptation. Notice how Satan offered all the kingdoms of the world to Jesus. Now, you can't give something that you don't have. Jesus didn't even try to contradict Satan's statement. Jesus understood that Satan is the real ruler of the sinful system of this earth.

### **Revelation 12:9, NIV**

The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

### **2 Corinthians 4:4, NIV**

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Satan is the god of this world (age) and the way in which he operates contradicts God's Kingdom principles. It makes you trust in him rather than God. He breeds and feeds on greed.

Satan wanted to let Jesus worship two masters, God and mammon. Satan offered Jesus power, authority, wealth in exchange for worship.

## **YOU CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MONEY**

The order and focus of this worldly system and the Kingdom of God are directly contrary to one another. You have to choose.

### **Matthew 6:24-33**

Mat 6:24 "No one 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 (wealth, mammon).

**No man can serve** — This means to "belong exclusively and be entirely under command of" God and wealth at the same time.

**You cannot serve God and mammon** — You cannot trust in both. "What one trusts in" is very important because it reveals where your heart is.

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

### **BE CONTENT**

To be content with what you have is Biblical. The apostle Paul had to learn this secret, as we all need to do.

### **Philippians 4:11-13, NIV**

I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength (Christ which strengthens me).

We need to distinguish between what we need and what we want.

### **PAUL ENCOURAGED TIMOTHY TO BE CONTENT**

#### **1 Timothy 6:8-10**

But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare (trap), into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

The more you have the more you want. Often people have enough money to take care of their families, yet they are driven to make more and more and more, eventually at the cost of their families.

### **CONCLUSION**

In **Mathew 6:19-20**, Jesus says,

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."

Use what you have wisely and share it with others. What God has entrusted to you is there for a greater purpose than to spend on yourself and get more and more. It is worth investing in this life into the Kingdom of God and to live according to the principles of the LORD. We must only have one master, Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 2:9**

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”