

“Money, Money, Money”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. A song by Swedish pop group ABBA in 1976 about a woman who works hard and cannot make ends meet, and she wants to meet and marry a rich man
 - Money, money, money
 - Must be funny
 - In the rich man's world
 - Money, money, money
 - Always sunny
 - In the rich man's world
 - All the things I could do
 - If I had a little money
 - It's a rich man's world
- B. Misconceptions
 - 1. “Poor people are morally superior”
 - 2. “It is a sin to be wealthy”
 - 3. “If you are wealthy, you need to give it all away”
- C. Our attitude toward wealth should recognize:
 - 1. Our relationship with God regarding wealth
 - 2. Reasons God has given for wealth
 - 3. Problems associated with wealth
- D. 1Tim. 6:6-10, 17-19
 - 1. Perhaps there is no more uncomfortable subject to discuss than other people's money.
 - 2. God's word makes it clear that the gospel preacher must address this.

I. OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD REGARDING MONEY

- A. We do not truly own anything. God owns everything.
 - 1. Deut. 10:14; Psalm 24:1; 1Chron 29:11-14; Psalm 50:10-12; 1Cor 10:26
- B. Abiding riches do not exist in this world - Matt. 6:19-21; 2Cor. 8:9
- C. Neither wealth nor our lack of it assures our acceptability to God.
 - 1. Prov. 30:8-9; Psalm 51:17
- D. With the right spirit, it is possible to prosper and be faithful to God.
 - 1. Gen. 14:21-23; Heb. 11:24-26; Job 31:16-28

II. REASONS GOD HAS GIVEN FOR WEALTH

- A. To share with the poor - Eph. 4:28; Acts 20:33-35; Gal. 2:10; Luke 19:8-9
 - 1. The Jews considered giving to the poor one of the three great personal righteousnesses; Jesus approved and clarified the matter - Matt. 6:1-4
- B. When we give to the poor, we prove our love - 2Cor. 8:8; 1John 3:17
- C. To promote the work of the church - 1Cor. 16:1-2
- D. To provide for our needs
 - 1. God knows we have needs - Matt. 6:33
 - 2. He wants us to care for our families - 1Tim. 5:8
- E. To enjoy God's creation - 1Tim. 6:17; Ecc. 2:24

III. PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH WEALTH

- A. Wealth is often antagonistic to spirituality - Mark 10:23-25
- B. Wealth can deceive and mislead - Matt. 13:22
- C. Wealth can increase temptation - James 5:1-6
- D. Wealth can generate covetousness - Luke 12:13-21
- E. Wealth is temporary - James 1:9-10

IV. THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD ALREADY KNOW THIS

- A. "Everyone wants to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down." (Oprah Winfrey)
- B. "A wise person should have money in their head, but not in their heart." (Jonathan Swift)
- C. "He who loses money, loses much; He who loses a friend, loses much more; He who loses faith, loses all." (Eleanor Roosevelt)
- D. "Money is like love; it kills slowly and painfully the one who withholds it, and enlivens the other who turns it on his fellow man." (Kahlil Gibran)
- E. "Money as such is not evil; it is its wrong use that is evil. Money in some form or other will always be needed." (Gandhi)

V. GOD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO KNOW THIS, TOO

- A. Prov. 8:10-11, 15:16, 13:7-8, 22:2, 1:19
- B. Prov. 14:31, 19:17, 3:9-10, 23:4-5, 10:2, 11:4