

GRAPHIC w/email

IMAGE: Money

<https://www.photos-public-domain.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/money.jpg>

Typical Money Talk in Church:

- Give more (Guilt)
 - Tithe: net or gross? NT or OT?
- Get out of debt (Practical)
- Unbiblical judgements that sound (*sort of*) biblical

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a **cheerful** giver.

Typical Money Discipleship:

- Duty and/or Guilt
- Suspicion
- My income = God's provision & blessing

1 Timothy 6:5b-6

... **godliness** is a way to **material gain**. ⁶ But godliness with **contentment** is **great gain**.

Godliness = satisfying life and a lifestyle □ great gain >> material (\$\$) gain

John 10:10

A **thief** comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have **life** and have it in **abundance**.

John 3:16

For God loved the world in this way: He **gave** His one and only **Son**, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have **eternal life**.

2 Corinthians 9:15

Thanks be to God for His **indescribable gift!**

Philippians 3:7-8, 10a

But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a **loss** because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the **surpassing value** of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord ... 10 My goal is to **know Him** ...

Matthew 6:19-21

“Don’t store up for yourselves **treasures** on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don’t break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your **heart** will be also.

2 Corinthians 5:15 (NLT)

He died for everyone so that those who receive His new life will **no longer live for themselves**. Instead, they will **live for Christ**, who died and was raised **for** them.

Money is more about the condition of our **heart than the size of our **income**.**

{One at a time; same slide}

Money problems **Money Solutions ...?**

Money problems **Heart Problems ...**

Gospel solutions.

1) Receive, cherish, and know the gift of **Jesus Christ through the Gospel.**

1 Timothy 6:7-10

For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out. ⁸ If we have food and clothing, we will be **content** with these. ⁹ But those who **want** to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is **a root** of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have **wandered away** from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

2) The love of **money is a **battle** with love for the Lord Himself ...**

Matthew 6:24

“**No one** can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You **cannot** serve both God and money.

2) The love of **money is a **battle** with love for the Lord Himself ...**

Decisively end any hint of **neutrality.**

4 Battle Lines:

a) **Contentment**

Discontentment seems like an inconsequential issue.

{Come up one sentence/phrase at a time ...}

- The big lie that feels so good it has to be true:
My personal definition of happiness is the most important moral & ethical commitment of my life.

4 Battle Lines:

- a) Contentment
- b) Identity

Income = life & lifestyle = Identity

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

4 Battle Lines:

- a) Contentment
- b) Identity
- c) Fallen World

God's Word: *trap, ruin & destruction, wandered away ..., griefs*

4 Battle Lines:

- a) Contentment
- b) Identity
- c) Fallen World
- d) Worship

{all together}

Us & Money:

- ✓ Pay & provide
 - ✓ Pay & pleasure
 - ✓ Give some and/or sometimes
- =Money is still a problem ... A trap!

I Timothy 6:11-16

But you, man of God, flee from these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life to which you were called and about which you have made a good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all, and of Christ Jesus, who gave a good confession before Pontius Pilate, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep

this command without fault or failure until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ God will bring this about in His own time. **He is** the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see, to him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

3) Money sense (and sanity, clarity, freedom, etc.) starts with surrendering to the glory of the One greater than us.

Money: move from ownership toward surrender

- Only the Gospels brings about true surrender.**

Money: financing our pleasures to funding God's purposes.

Ephesians 4:28

If you are a thief, quit stealing. **Instead**, use your hands for good hard work, and then give **generously** to others in need.

{Come up 1 at a time; 1st sentence followed by both bullet points together}

God's "money" goal for His people is generosity.

Money funds the Kingdom.

Money reflects the Gospel.

A true need? God provides through His church.

Acts 2:44-45

Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. ⁴⁵ They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as **any had need**.

Need wisdom & encouragement? God provides through His church.

LINK TO RESOURCES, CLASS, etc.

{one at a time}

Stepping in surrender toward generosity ...

- a) Behold the King of Kings & be His beloved!**
- b) Say "No" to less than cheerful giving ...**
- c) Decide to step forward in faith**

{come up one at a time}

Steps of Faith:

Be prayerful & worshipful in giving.

Be consistent in giving (I Corinthians 16:1-2)

ONLINE GIVING SLIDE (see Cory/Daniel)

Steps of Faith:

Become generous in giving

- **Beyond the percentage**
 - Spontaneous
 - Sacrificial

Remember the rewards (future grace) □ The best is yet to come!