



Financial Freedom (Part 2)

Review Part 1: God & Wealth

- 1, God is not averse (or "allergic") to success, prosperity and wealth
- 2, God does bless His people with success, prosperity and wealth
- 3, God has taught man how to be successful, to prosper and how to use wealth
- 4, God hates poverty

Today:

Believer's Misconceptions About Wealth Sunday January 18, 2009

Avoiding the ditch on either side of the road

Hermeneutical Principle:

Interpret Scripture in the light of rest of Scripture.
Martin Luther taught that Scripture is its best interpreter.
Understand what God has said on the subject in its entirety.

MC#1 : Success Motivation and Profit Motive are Ungodly

On the one hand

1 Timothy 6:3-11

We do teach godly living - staying away from sin, wrong attitudes of the heart, respect and reverence, integrity and holiness.

We do not use religion to become rich.

Learning to enjoy (be satisfied or content) in every situation is great gain.

"desire to be rich" does have its dangers

But the real issue is "why" do you desire to be rich? If you desire to be rich, because of the love of money, to spend it on self, greediness, etc...that will definitely result in many sorrows.

But what about desiring to be rich, so that we can give to those in need, so that we can bless God's Kingdom much more...these are proper motives for profit.

Jeremiah 45:5 And do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them;
(This is a specific word to Baruch, through prophet Jeremiah, in a specific situation)

On the other hand

Luke 19:12-23 / Matthew 25:14-18

Luke 19:15 "And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

Luke 19:23 Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that at my coming I might have collected it with interest?'

Joshua 1:8 God motivates us to success.

Isaiah 48:17 God teaches us to profit.



Deuteronomy 8:18 God gives us the power to get wealth. Wealth today, in business terms is made as a result of profit.

David, a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22)

1 Samuel 17:22-31 It is quite evident that David was motivated by the fact that there was a reward for the man who went out to meet Goliath. He did use his faith in God to meet Goliath - but he was also motivated by the fact of a good reward as well.

Nehemiah had faith in God to see success in his assignment.

Nehemiah 2:20

The Proverbs 31 woman

Pro 31:16 She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard.

MC#2 : It is wrong to save wealth (money) for the future

On the one hand

Matthew 6:19-21,24,34

Luke 12:16-34

On the other hand

Genesis 41:25-57 Joseph put aside 20% each year of the 7 years of plenty to save for the years of famine. This was the operation of God's wisdom.

Deuteronomy 28:8 God blesses our storehouses – a place where surplus is stored. Today we use bank accounts and other forms of investments to store surplus.

Proverbs 3:9,10

Proverbs 6:6-6 God instructs us to learn from the ant, which stores up during a time of plenty in preparation for a time of need.

Proverbs 13:22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.

So the balance is to be wise in this world by making what savings we can, and yet at the same time, keeping our heart fixed on the Lord, not trusting in our savings or other forms of wealth – but leaning solely on the Lord. We need to be in a place, where God is God over our savings – so that He can tell us to do anything He chooses with it.

MC# 3 : To be a true believer I must give up all earthly things

On the one hand

Matthew 6:24

Matthew 8:20

Luke 9:23-25



Luke 14:33
1 John 2:15-17
James 4:4
Mark 10: 17-31

On the other hand

John 17:15,18 To be in the world is to be in business, politics, education, media, arts, entertainment, etc.

Luke 19:13 Do business till I come

Mark 10:28-30 Jesus is no man's debtor. He promised a 100 fold return now in this life!

1 Timothy 6:17

The right balance for us is described by the apostle Paul : 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
While we possess things, and engage the world, we are not entangled, controlled by or attached to the world. We are in a position to let any of it go and do what the Lord bids us do.

MC#4 : Just enough is enough. To pray for more is not pleasing to God

On the one hand

Matthew 6:11 give us this day our daily bread

1 Timothy 6:6 godliness with contentment is great gain

Proverbs 30:8 Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches—
Feed me with the food allotted to me;

Philippians 4:19

On the other hand

Proverbs 3:9,10

Joel 2:26

Malachi 3:9-12 no room enough to hold them all

2 Corinthians 9:8

God was ready to give David much more 2 Samuel 12:8

Genesis 17:1 El Shaddai, the God of more than enough (miracles 2 Kings 5 Widow woman' debts, multiplying 5 loaves 2 fish left over with 12 baskets, Luke 5 peter's net-breaking, boat sinking load of fish)

The real issue is: What is important is why do you wish to have abundance, and what you plan to do with the abundance?

MC#5 : It is wrong to invest money for gain

On the one hand

Exodus 22:25

Deuteronomy 23:19, 20

Psalm 15:5

Proverbs 28:8

On the other hand



Luke 19:12-23 / Matthew 25:14-18

The reference is to the law of the Hebrews, which forbade such a loaning of money to the poor, and especially to poor Israelites, Exo_22:25; Lev_25:35-37. Although this was forbidden in respect to the Israelites, yet the lending of money on interest, or "usury" in a lawful sense, was allowed toward "strangers," or toward the people of other nations. (See Deu 23:19-20)

Webster : "The word "usury" formerly denoted legal interest, or a premium for the use of money. In this sense the word is no longer used in our language, but it always now denotes unlawful interest; "a premium or compensation paid, or stipulated to be paid, for the use of money borrowed or retained, beyond the rate of interest established by law."

MC#6 : A poverty image pleases God and will win God's favour

On the one hand

Matthew 5:3

James 2:5

On the other hand

Psalms 35:27 2 Corinthians 8:9

God is not impressed with outward shows of piety.

God wants us to inherit and live by our inheritance and the blessings He has promised us.

MC#7 : It is wrong to wear jewelry, dress well, enjoy life

1 Timothy 2:9,10 1 Peter 3:3-5

While we are not disallowed from wearing jewelry, dress well, etc...the emphasis is that we must set our affection on things above.

The ditch on the other side of the road

MC#8 : I live by faith, so I do not need to work

1 Thessalonians 4:11,12

2 Thessalonians 3:6-10

Ephesians 4:28

MC#9 : God will bless me anyway, so I do not need to acquire knowledge and wisdom

Proverbs 8:12, 21

Proverbs 24:3,4

MC#10 : God is obligated to take care of me because I have forsaken all for His sake

God watches over His Word to fulfill it. We must be doers of His Word and live in obedience to His Word. We have to do the things He taught us to do.



Correct Posture:

Our only love and dependence is on God.

We need to have sanctified desires, motives and intentions toward wealth.

We must demonstrate godliness in the use of wealth, success, prosperity, etc.

God is delighted to see His people use all that He has created for His glory.