

Worldliness Part II

Quest for Riches
February 5, 2006

Introduction:

Money may solve many hardships in this life; however, it cannot open the gates of heaven for anyone. Solomon wrote, "*Better is the poor that walks in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich*" (Prov. 28:6). The Bible reveals the lives of Abraham, Job, and Joseph of Arimathea to be not only faithful and obedient but also rich in this world's goods (cf. Gen. 13:2; Job 1:3, 10; Matt. 27:57). There is nothing wrong with having things per se (cf. Matt. 25:14-30) but when having things becomes my priority in life I have become a lover of money (cf. I Tim. 6:17-18). The apostle Paul told Timothy, "*But they that are minded to be rich fall into a temptation and a snare and many foolish and hurtful lusts, such as drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil:*" (I Tim. 6:9-10). Those who seek after the riches of this world, at the expense of their souls, illustrate a mind unable to see past their immediate days. This lesson shall examine the side of worldliness that involves the love of money and things of this world.

I. The pursuit of riches indicates one's purpose in life (Matthew 6:19-21):

A. Balaam (prophet of Midian)

1. Balak, king of Moab, offered Balaam money and great honor if he would curse Israel (Numb. 22:6-8).
2. Balaam eventually accepts the king's offer and causes Israel to be cursed (Numb. 31:16).
3. Lesson: Those who love money (or anything else) above God are doomed (cf. II Pet. 2:15; Jude 11; Rev. 2:14).

B. Judah (lovers of money)

1. Those who were suppose to be spiritual leaders were greedy for riches (Ezek. 22:23-25).
2. Due to Judah's rich state they gloried (Jer. 9:23), were at ease (Ezek. 16:48-52), and saw no need for God (Ezek. 22:12).
3. Lesson: Know that money can save no man from the consequence of sin (Ezek. 7:19). God took away the riches that Judah put her trust in (Jer. 20:5; Lam. 1:10).

C. The man seeking an inheritance (Lk. 12:13-21):

1. His words convicted him of covetousness (Lk. 12:13-15).
2. Lesson: Riches cause one to forget God and to be at ease (Lk. 12:16-21).

D. The rich ruler (Lk. 18:18-30)

1. Professed to be spiritually minded (Lk. 18:18).
2. Jesus put him to the test (Lk. 18:22).
3. The rich man could not let go of worldly cares (Lk. 18:23).
4. Lesson: One cannot love the things of this world and God.

II. The effects of riches on the eternal soul (I Tim. 6:6-10):

A. Discontentment and dissatisfaction (I Tim. 6:8-9).

B. The quest for more drowns the rich in a sea of lusts (one who is so captivated in gaining more that he forgets all else) (I Tim. 6:9).

C. Some faithful brethren have erroneously traveled down the road of lusting after riches and found only sorrows (I Tim. 6:10).

III. The Christian's Treasure:

A. Heaven (Luke 18:22)

- B. Fear of the Lord (Isa. 33:6)
- C. Truth (II Cor. 4:7).
- D. Christ (Col. 2:1-3).
- E. Suffering for Christ (Heb. 11:26).

Conclusion:

To reach after riches in this life at the expense of your souls is the ultimate waste of a human life. Riches will not bring true happiness and neither can it save you from your sins. Riches will only cause you to forget God. Let us treasure the things of God such as truth and heaven. Remember six things:

- The Bible bears out the fact that having riches per se is not wrong (some may receive inheritances etc.) (cf. Gen. 13:2; Job 1:3, 10; Matt. 25:14-30; 27:57).
- Those who “reach after riches” are those who sin (I Tim. 6:10).
- Money is the root of all kinds of evil (temptations, snares, hurtful lusts, sorrows) (I Tim. 6:9-10).
- Our lives do not consist of the THINGS we have (Lk. 12:15).
- We brought nothing into this world and we will take nothing with us when we die (I Tim. 6:7).
- Let us be rich toward God (Lk. 12:21).