

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: [www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com](http://www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com)
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

Oak Grove Church of Christ Bulletin  
2922 NW 76th Terrace, Jennings, FL 32053

January 9, 2022

## Must Christians Sell All Their Earthly Possessions to be Pleasing to God?

By Derek Long

The Bible in both Old and New Testaments teaches people to be generous to those who are in need. Deuteronomy 15:7-11 would be one place in the Old Testament where God commanded His people to be generous to those who are poor. The book of Proverbs in many places will encourage the practice of generosity toward the poor. Some examples include Proverbs 11:24-26; 14:31; 19:17; 22:9; 28:27; 29:7. The New Testament as well teaches us to be generous individuals. Jesus teaches us to, "Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away" (Matthew 5:42, NKJV). Galatians 6:10 teaches us, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those of the household of faith" (NKJV). Ephesians 4:28 teaches us one of the reasons we work is so we, "may have something to give to him who has need" (NKJV). Hebrews 13:16 says, "But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" (NKJV). 1 John 3:17-18 tells us our love must be demonstrated by our actions which would include being generous to the one who has need. Our response to the question, "Must Christians sell all their earthly possessions to be pleasing

to God?” is not intended to discourage us from practicing the sort of generosity taught in these passages.

In Luke 18:18-23 Jesus is approached by a ruler who was very rich. The ruler asked Jesus, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (Luke 18:18, NKJV). Eventually in response to the ruler’s question, Jesus tells him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me” (Luke 18:22, NKJV). The passage clearly teaches it was necessary for this ruler to sell everything he had, give it to the poor, and follow Jesus to inherit eternal life. Does what Jesus says here apply to every individual or not? Let’s look at some other verses which might shed light on this question for us.

The early Christians leave us examples of things which are worthy of our imitation. There are things the early Christians did based upon the inspired teaching of the apostles and prophets which we need to imitate. There are also things the early Christians did which were either not approved or were an approved thing to do but not something which is required to be done. In Galatians 2:11-21 we are told how Peter and Barnabas withdrew from Gentile Christians when certain men would come from James to Antioch. Here we find an example of something early Christians did but it was not an approved example. In Acts 20:8 we read about the early Christians meeting in an upper room lit by lamps. Are we required to meet in an upper room lit by lamps in order for our worship to be approved by God? No! How do we know this? Because other Bible passages teach us the location where we assemble is not the important thing in New Testament worship (John 4:19-24). In other words, the Bible records for us approved examples of

things early Christians did which might not be a binding example based upon the teachings of other verses on the topic. In Acts 2:44-45 and Acts 4:32-37 we read about the early Christians selling their possessions to help take care of other needy Christians. Is this example an approved example? Yes! Is this example something all Christians are required to do today? I would answer, “No.” Why would I say, “no”? In Acts 5:1-4 we are taught it was not required of every Christian in the first century to sell their possessions in order to help other needy saints. Ananias and Sapphira did not have to sell their possession in order to be pleasing to God. The choice was theirs whether they sold it or not. Also, if all Christians had sold all their possessions in Acts 2 and Acts 4, it seems strange Ananias and Sapphira still have possessions in Act 5 to sell.

As we began, God expects Christians who are rich to be generous. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 says, “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life” (NKJV). God requires us to remove anything from our life which would hinder our loyal service to Him. If our riches are going to keep us from serving Him faithfully, then we should be willing to sell them to follow Him faithfully. However, God does not require every Christian to sell everything he has and give it to the needy in order to be pleasing to Him.