

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday
 Bible Classes.....9 A.M.
 Worship 10:00 A.M.
 Worship/Bible Study..5 P.M.

Wednesday:
 Bible Study..... 7:00 P.M.



Weekly Bulletin
 January 5, 2025


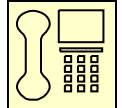

Money Talks

by Bryan Gibson

It sure does, and this time it has some heavenly wisdom to impart. Listen carefully, because it may be speaking to you.

I'm not evil, as some suppose. To the contrary, I can actually be quite useful. Use me properly, and you'll enjoy this life more (Ecclesiastes 5:18-19; 1 Timothy 6:17), make this life better for others (1 Timothy 6:18), advance the cause of the gospel (Philippians 1:5; 4:14-16), and in so doing better prepare yourself and others for the life to come (1 Timothy 6:19). Work hard, then, to obtain me (Ephesians 4:28); be wise with your investments (Matthew 25:26-27); and put some of me aside (2 Corinthians 12:14)— for the Lord's work, for the needs of others, and for the future needs of you and your family.

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Understand, though, I do have limitations. I don't last (Psalms 49:10-11; Proverbs 23:4-5), so I'm a poor substitute for things that do—things the Lord calls “enduring riches” (Proverbs 8:18), or “true riches” (Luke 16:11). You can have a lot of me, but still have “nothing” (Proverbs 13:7)—if you're not “rich toward God” (Luke 12:21), if you don't have the things that matter most, like a good name and loving favor (Proverbs 22:1); a generous heart (Proverbs 11:24-25); a peaceful, godly home (Proverbs 15:16-17); righteousness and integrity, and all the other qualities that characterize a “man of God” (Proverbs 16:8; 19:1; 28:6; 1 Timothy 6:11). If you have these things—the things I can't buy—you are rich, no matter what your bank statement says (Proverbs 13:7; James 2:5; Revelation 2:9).

So use me, but don't fall in love with me or put your trust in me (1 Timothy 6:9-10; Mark 10:24; Psalms 49:7-9; 52:7). I'm a pretty good servant, but I make a lousy master. Here's what typically happens to those who get greedy for me, or who “overwork” (Proverbs 23:4-5) to get more and more of me.

1) The word of God can't produce fruit in them, because it's been choked by this pursuit (Matthew 13:21-22); 2) they forget God, the very source of everything they have (Deuteronomy 8:11-18; Proverbs 30:9); 3) I become their security blanket, or “strong city” (Proverbs 10:15; 18:11); 4) they do just about anything to obtain me, no matter how sinful or illegal (Proverbs 13:11; 20:17; 22:16; 28:8); 5) they become increasingly ungrateful (Proverbs 27:7); 6) they neglect the needs of those around them, including their family (Proverbs 14:31; Matt. 19:16-22; Luke 16:19-31; James 5:1-6); 7) their anxiety (and maybe their

blood pressure with it) increases (Ecclesiastes 5:12); 8) and a whole bunch of other bad things (1 Timothy 6:9-10). Put your trust in me, and I'm warning you, it would be “easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle” than for you to go to heaven (Mark 10:24-25).

So please, make God your master, and me your servant (Matthew 6:24). Use me to serve Him; that way, you'll always have a place you can call home (Luke 16:9).

Reaching the Goal

by Bryan Gibson



“But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith” (1 Timothy 1:5, NASV).

That's the goal, the aim, or the end of the gospel—to produce these qualities in each one of us, to ultimately transform each one of us into the image of Christ (Romans 8:29).

Sound teaching and practice on subjects like the work, worship, and organization of the local church is not the end of the gospel. In fact, it's quite possible to “hold fast the pattern of sound words” (2 Tim. 1:13) on these points and still miss the big point—the aim, the end, or the goal of such teaching.

Sound teaching and practice on these same subjects, though, is a means to the end, and if we change the means, we will never have the desired end. Every point of truth is in accordance with godliness (1 Timothy 6:3), and if we change any portion of it, we will most certainly end up with something else.

Sorry, but there are no short cuts with God.