

THE CHRISTIAN AND MONEY

Introduction

- 1) “**Money** answers everything” (Eccl. 10:19) – Is this true?
 - a) Money is vital to help us acquire the things we need in this earthly life (Eccl. 7:12)
 - b) But the worldly-minded put their trust in material things that are uncertain (1 Tim. 6:17)
 - c) The power of money is limited and cannot answer every need of man (Matt. 16:26)
- 2) **Money** is a medium of exchange in commerce and trade; an item (material or made) given value to use in exchange and purchase and selling; helped supplement the barter system – more convenient in representing value
- 3) Money itself is neutral, neither good nor bad – it is our attitude toward it and use of it that determines whether it becomes a blessing or a curse in our lives
- 4) The Christian needs to have the proper understanding and right attitude about money

I) **The Earth and All That Is in It Belongs to God**

- A) God created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1)
- B) God claims all the earth for Himself (Ex. 19:5; Psa. 50:12)
- C) The “earth is the Lord’s and all its fullness” (Psa. 24:1-2; 1 Cor. 10:26, 28)
 - 1) All our money belongs to God – we are stewards of His immeasurable wealth

II) **Money is Necessary and Good**

- A) Bible references about money and its uses (Gen. 17:12; 23:16; Eccl. 7:12; Jn. 13:29; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 1 Tim. 5:8; Rom. 13:6-7; Eph. 4:28)
- B) Not wrong to be rich (Gen. 13:2; Job 1:3; 1 Kgs. 10:14-23; 1 Tim. 6:17-18)

III) **Money is Useful only in this Life**

- A) Bring no money into this world and leave with no money (1 Tim. 6:7)
- B) Money goes to others after death (Psa. 49:10; Lk. 12:20)

IV) **Money must be Obtained Rightfully**

- A) Wages for honest labor (Eph. 4:28)
- B) Inheritance, gifts, rewards, etc. (Lk. 15:12; Acts 20:35)
- C) Ungodly methods – stealing, gambling, extortion, bribery, lazy begging, etc. (*see back)

V) **Dangers of Loving Money**

- A) **Dangers:** Loving money brings temptations, snares, foolish and harmful lusts, straying from the faith, pierce self through with many sorrows (1 Tim. 6:9-10)
 - 1) Loving money = covetousness, greed (2 Tim. 3:2; Heb. 13:5; Col. 3:5)
- B) **More dangers:** never satisfied (Eccl. 5:10); selfishness (Lk. 16:19-21); dishonesty (Acts 5:1-4); teach error (2 Pet. 2:3); divided loyalties (Lk. 16:13; Matt. 19:23)
- C) **Leads to abuses:** homes forsaken, wasteful spending, unpaid debts, unfair exchange

VI) **Scriptural Principles**

- A) Don’t be consumed by worry (Matt. 6:31-32)
- B) Keep proper perspective (Jas. 4:13-15)
- C) Put God first (Matt. 6:33; 1 Tim. 6:17); He does not judge based on money (Mk. 12:41-44)
- D) Maintain good works (1 Tim. 6:18; 1 Jn. 3:17-18)
- E) Keep your eyes on your true wealth (1 Tim. 6:19; Matt. 6:20)

Conclusion

Whether God has left little or much in our stewardship, let us use it to His glory. Let money be our servant, not our master, in doing good and pursuing the eternal riches of heaven. Obey God today!

The Problem of Gambling

Definition of Gambling

The agreed risking of money or something of material value, by a wager or bet, on an event or a game with an uncertain outcome with the primary intent of the winner(s) gaining additional money and/or material goods from the loser(s) without compensation.

Examples

Casino gambling: *slot machines, roulette wheels, dice and card games, number games, etc., played for monetary stakes*

Racetrack betting on horses, dogs

Lotteries (state lottery, mega millions, etc)

Charity and church-sponsored bingo, raffles, etc.

Carnival games: *Ring Toss, Bust-a-Balloon, Milk Bottle Knockdown, etc.*

Amateur gambling: *poker games for money, office pools, matching quarters for cokes or coffee, playing marbles for keeps, etc.*

***Not** forms of illicit covetous gambling: *investments, insurance, farming, life, etc.*

Violates

“Golden Rule” (Matt. 7:12)

Law of love (Rom. 13:8-10)

Law of labor and exchange (Eph. 4:28; Matt. 13:44)

*Amount of material value put at risk is not relevant since the practice itself violates Bible principles and establishes an immoral precedent

Motivation

Greed/covetousness (1 Tim. 6:9-10) – seek to gain at another’s loss

Results

Addiction (2 Pet. 2:19)

Sinner/Lost (Eph. 5:3-5)