

PRINCIPLES OF PROPER STEWARDSHIP (1 Timothy 6:6-10)

I. Our relationship with God is affected by our view of money.

- A. We need to realize that we don't truly own anything and that God owns everything.
 - 1. Deuteronomy 10:14.
 - 2. Psalm 24:1; 50:10-12.
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 10:26.
 - 4. Since God entrusts us with these blessings, that makes us stewards of them and we are to be faithful in how we use them (1 Corinthians 4:2).
- B. We need to realize that true and lasting riches don't come from this world (Matthew 6:19-21; 2 Corinthians 8:9).
 - 1. The things in this life lose their value and deteriorate.
 - 2. We will simply leave them to someone else one day.
 - 3. Even if they do happen to increase in value for some reason, they will simply burn up at Christ's return.
- C. We need to realize that our having or not having wealth does not guarantee that we are acceptable to God.
 - 1. Proverbs 30:8-9.
 - 2. This is something the disciples of Jesus did not understand (Matthew 19:24-26).
 - a. Their question showed they believed God was biased towards the rich.
 - b. Just because mankind displays a certain attitude does not mean God does.
 - 3. Psalm 51:17 reveals that it is not outward possessions but inward attitudes that indicate a right relationship with God.
- D. We should realize it is possible to be rich and right with God, but it takes a great attitude.
 - 1. Notice Abraham's attitude (Genesis 14:21-23).
 - 2. Notice that of Moses (Hebrews 11:24-26).
 - 3. Notice Job's attitude in two areas:
 - a. Towards the poor (31:16-22).
 - b. Towards wealth (31:24-28).
- E. We need to realize that it is an abnormal wanting or desire for money that is sinful, not having money (1 Timothy 6:9 - the phrase "they that will" carries the idea of setting affection on).

II. Reasons God has given for money.

- A. God's word is not silent about why we need money.
- B. We need it to help the poor, which is probably the most emphasized reason for money in scripture.
 - 1. Ephesians 4:28.
 - 2. Acts 20:35.
 - 3. Galatians 2:9-10; 6:9-10.

- C. We prove our love for God by giving to the poor (2 Corinthians 8:8; 1 John 3:17).
 - 1. The verse in 2 Corinthians is in the context of the congregation needing to give to a specific effort.
 - 2. Thus we learn that some of our giving to the poor is done through the congregation.
 - D. We help further the work of the church (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
 - 1. We know that it costs money to spread the gospel.
 - 2. It costs money to maintain a building and many other things, thus we have to have the right attitude towards giving on the Lord's Day.
 - E. We have money for the necessities of life.
 - 1. God wants us to have those things (Matthew 6:33).
 - 2. He wants us to be content with the things we have (1 Timothy 6:8).
 - 3. God wants us to enjoy the creation that He has given us and that takes money as we know (1 Timothy 6:17).
 - 4. However, we get into trouble when we place our enjoyment of this world over proper stewardship of the financial blessings God has given us.
 - F. We need money to take care of our families (1 Timothy 5:8).
- III. Realize there are problems associated with wealth.**
- A. With great blessing comes great responsibility.
 - B. Often, riches hinder spirituality (Mark 10:23-25).
 - C. Riches are deceitful (Matthew 13:22).
 - D. Wealth can lead to many temptations.
 - 1. James 5:1-6.
 - 2. When you have great wealth, more things are available to you and many of those things are not spiritually healthy.
 - E. Wealth can lead to covetousness (Luke 12:13-21).
 - 1. The more we have the more we want is a trap of wealth.
 - 2. There is never enough when money is our object.
 - F. Wealth does not endure just as we don't (James 1:9-11).
 - G. Wealth tempts us to hold back from God (Mark 12:41-44).
 - H. Wealth can lead to trusting in something other than God (1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19).

From a sermon by Kevin Cauley.