

# FINANCES, OWN PROPERTY & REAL ESTATE

## (THE BIBLE ADMONISHES BELIEVERS)

(#S170R) #S265R

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(Matt.6:19-21) "Do not store up riches for yourselves here on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and robbers break in and steal. Instead, store up riches for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and robbers cannot break in and steal. For your heart will always be where your riches are." Also, Isaiah 44:9 "All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless." One of many difficult places for a learning Christian, is to be in a tight place financially, especially so if they have a household to support, rent to pay, children to feed, and other financial obligations to meet.

When one's regular income is shut off, that can become a difficult place for them (and the one place that seems to be the most difficult to cope with, naturally-speaking), but such a trial is spiritually of great value. To be in that position [or trial] can erase any self within us and will replace it with divine principles of trust and faith in God. It can also be part of our preparation for Heaven.

(Mark 10:17) tells of a young man who ran to Jesus and asked the question. "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied that he should know and obey the Ten Commandments.

Jesus then mentioned a few: "Do not murder, do not steal, do not commit adultery, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother." Jesus later mentioned the two most important ones-- "to love God with all his heart" (meaning, let nothing come between you and God) and to love his fellow man as much as himself."

The man answered (vs.20) "All these I have kept since I was a boy." He actually was saying that he obeyed all the Commandments except the first two. (vs.21 says)"Jesus looked at him and loved him. 'One thing you lack,' he said." (In other words) "There is still one thing that would keep you from inheriting Eternal Life. You need to sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (That's clear language, and it would be difficult to misinterpret if one had the Holy Spirit).

The same principle of truth is taught (Acts 2:38) "Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" So, in repenting of their false places of trust, we are told (vs.45) "Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need."

King James version also says, "possessions and goods," but some translations say, "They sold their land and the things they owned." Or "exchanged their goods and property for money." Or "They would sell their property and possessions," And Weymouth's says, "They sold their lands and other property and distributed the proceeds among all."

Most religious organizations have convinced their followers that it is not necessary for one to trust God for finances to be made ready for eternity. Satan deceives the majority of people to reject this principle of truth in the Bible because it is an essential principle of Truth and can't be omitted in preparation for eternity.

Almost the last words of the Bible say (Reve.22:19), "If anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city."

Jesus told that young man who asked, that his Eternal Life would depend on his selling the property, the lands, the real estate, or any other laid up treasure he owned, and then giving the money to the poor. Those instructions were very clear and should be easily understood. But Mark 10:22 says, "At this the man's face fell. He went away sad because he possessed great wealth."

Bible translations say the man had "great possessions," or "He was one who had much property." Or, "He was having many possessions."

Jesus just told him plainly and simply to obey God's Word. The man could not lay hold of Eternal Life, and at the same time hold on to his laid-up treasures on earth. He could not meet the requirements of true discipleship, nor could he be a true follower of Christ. But, the man went away sorrowful and very discouraged.

That reminds us of the Truth given us from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matt.6:24) "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

[ Ananias and Sapphira tried to compromise with God on that issue, (Acts 5:1-11) and they both lost their life, as they had grieved the Holy Spirit of God!]

While the young man (made note of in Mark 10) held on to his money, possessions, and property, he was (in effect) despising Christ, as anyone would who preferred the world ahead of Jesus. (Exodus 20:3) "You shall have no other gods before me."

(Mark 10:23-25) "Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were amazed at his words, and said, "Who then can be saved?"

Everyone else who heard that was surprised--they had never heard such teaching. The Jewish synagogues then (just as the established churches today), don't have the least idea that money, real estate, possessions, and other forms of laid-up treasure, have anything to do with Eternal Life.

They use every excuse possible to get around or to get away from obeying God's financial plan, and His teaching on property owning and real estate holdings. However, the instruction here is very clear.

Jesus told them again--[He didn't want them to miss this vital principle of truth], "'Children, how hard it is {for those who trust in riches} to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go

through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

So, the Bible plainly tells us to sell possessions, laid-up funds, pension money (in whatever form they could be), real estate, homes, or buildings, and give the proceeds to charity. Many people argue over what is to be considered a treasure and what is not. The very state of owning something (or possessing property, etc. (whether it be held in one or many hands) and having control or power over that possession in question, does eliminate trust in God.

In any area of life where we could eliminate some kind of trust in God, it would enable the devil to have us drift away from God's will and His plan for our lives. That is the very reason it is much better to rent buildings, homes, and even automobiles in this modern time, because all three of those mentioned are very expensive items and very much considered treasures today.

Also, in renting buildings, homes, and automobiles, one must then place their trust in God to control the actions and decisions of the owner, to be congenial and willing to rent those things to us for our use. Any area in life where we have control, trust in God is drastically lessened or eliminated.

Jesus told the young man that if he trusted in riches, if he depended on his real estate holdings, or if he held on to the wealth and possessions he had accumulated, he would not enter the kingdom of Heaven. When He said, "How can a rich man enter Heaven?" He meant, "How could anyone (or any group) who does not trust God financially, ever gain Eternal Life?"

Any real estate today converts to possessions, to assets, to money, and so, to security. If anyone wants to come to a definite conclusion on the question of owning property, real estate, or possessions, they only have to read the Bible and go by what It says. (Mark 10:21) Jesus explained: "Go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor--and you shall have treasure in heaven--and come, follow me." (It is a 'choice of the will' for each one of us).

If we have a question about anything in our mind, we should turn to God's Word and seek divine light from the Scriptures and determine (with God's help) what course to follow to be in divine order. The Apostle Paul said (Rom.12:2) "Test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will."

(Luke 12:33-34) (Wey) "Sell your possessions and give alms. Provide yourselves with purses that will never wear out, a treasure inexhaustible in Heaven, where no thief can come, nor moth consume. For where your wealth is stored, there also will your heart be." The Living Bible says, "Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be."

Some people might argue the point and say that those verses must mean to sell your coat, shoes, and other items that you use every day. The Pastor said that the Bible doesn't mean to get rid of necessary

things that are used every day, but extra and laid-up things that just accumulate, gather dust, and become treasures or idols to trust on.

The Bible tells us that if we have two of something, we are to give one to another who has none. God knows every heart, and He will reward those who consider others and who share their extra things with fellow Christians. Those "things" shared will become treasures in Heaven that will never be exhausted.

The nature and mind-set of a true believer in Christ will be at variance with owning real estate, homes, or buildings on this earth, since followers of Christ are only visitors in the world-- their "citizenship is in Heaven." (1 Peter 2:11) calls the true Christian "aliens and strangers in the world," while Weymouth translation uses the words, "pilgrims and foreigners."

A person visiting another city only takes with them necessary things-- they want to carry just enough to see them through the time they expect to be away. A visitor wants to be ready to leave at a day's notice-- whenever their duties at that place would be completed.

On any such temporary visit, one would always rent a room or an apartment-- just something comfortable for the time of their intended stay. A true Christian (as a visitor) is only making a temporary visit, as they have no certain place of residence, because their permanent home is in Heaven.

Abraham (our Old Testament example) lived in very temporary dwellings (Hebr.11:9) Through faith he came and made his home for a time in a land which had been promised to him, as if in a foreign country, living in tents together with Isaac and Jacob, sharers with him in the same promise."

They looked forward to the same promise that we all anticipate-- that great city spoken of in Revelation 21:10-11-- the 'new Jerusalem' "coming down out of Heaven from God and bringing with it the glory of God. It shone with a radiance like that of a very precious stone--such as a jasper, bright and transparent."

So, the things of this world (even necessary items we use every day), are to be held loosely and considered only for the value they are as tools, because we want to drop them at a moment's notice.

We need to understand that God wants us to know about His financial plan-- His intention and desire for us is, that we depend entirely on Him day-by-day for all that is received, whether we work at a regular job or not. All things basically come from God and are to be received through His mercy, love, and divine providence.

God is trying to teach every willing soul, what His plan is concerning finances. That is why we sometimes find ourselves in difficult places. It is in those tough financial battles that God uses to reveal our true character, for when a real temptation is met with, that trial will search the hidden recesses of our heart.

The human heart is full of human trust, and that human dependence must be removed even though it is one of the most difficult aspects of the self-life to be removed.

Someone had remarked to the late Pastor, that if a person owned a house and had a mortgage on it, that that would be okay. He told them that it was not okay, and that a Christian is not to own any house. (He continued to say to them) that not only would this be placing our treasure on earth (instead of Heaven), but that one would also be placing themselves in debt, (which is another violation of Scripture). Romans 13:8 instructs us, "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law."

There is no teaching in the entire Bible that says we are to lay up treasure on earth, in real estate holdings, or buildings, homes, or in anything else that would be considered an asset, and something that we could depend on. (Again Luke 18:24) "How hard it is for those who have riches"—(or those who follow the world's plan of buying real estate and property as a security) —"to enter the kingdom of God!"

A true believer should not even depend on a salary, for to do so would be the same as depending on a laid-up inheritance. We should not allow a regular weekly paycheck to get between us and God (and so interfere with our true place of trust on God). The late Pastor said that he knew of people who took jobs because of the pension plan they offered. Every true Christian must learn to trust God for not only the small matters of daily life, but all the way through in large financial things, and in the later years of one's life. (This is Bible teaching as given all through chapter 16 of the Book of Luke).

When a believer has extra money, and if all back debts and financial obligations are paid, then they would do well to remember others who may have financial needs. The Apostle reminds (Gal.2:10) "They desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do." And Proverbs 14:21 is a reminder for all of us, "Blessed is he who is kind to the needy."

(The late Pastor admonished) "Our income would increase considerably if we had a little more interest in the needs of others. Also, that anyone who is in a tight place financially should not depend on any laid-up money, nor any pension funds and Social Security payments, nor can a Christian look toward relatives, the church, nor any other outside source, but look to God alone.

When everyone forgets us (as it can seem), and we are down to our last penny, that is a very spiritually valuable place to be put in. If financial battles keep coming back, then we have not learned our lesson right the first time we met it. If some compromise remains in our heart, and we look to some particular source of help, a financial lesson must be given to us again until we learn to look only to God and God alone so He can deliver and save us from our attitude of self-trust. At that point, spiritual progress can and will be made in our life and our preparation for Eternal Life.

The story that Jesus gave us (Mark 12:42), affords a great lesson on this subject; "A poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins," {worth only a fraction of a penny}.

She really did what Jesus told the young man in Mark 10 to do-- she gave not from her surplus, but she gave all that she had at that moment. (Vs.43-44) "Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "'I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything-- all she had to live on.'"

When a believer will look away from possible human sources and look to God alone (for whatever finances needed) they would progress in the full Truth, and God would be able to amply provide them with supplies as needed.

If God could sustain four million people in a desert wilderness for forty years, then He certainly could support one family for a week (in a land of plenty). The story of God providing for Israel's needs was written for our benefit. It is a basic lesson of learning to trust God for daily supplies.

Jesus admonished, that if we are not Scriptural in money matters, "Who will trust you with true riches?" (Luke 16:11). If we make Christ and His promises to be our own, and if we place all our treasure in Heaven (as we are told), we can have all that God has in store for us.

The Pastor reminded that we should never complain that someone forgot us because God is to supply every need by His riches in Christ Jesus. If we meet financial trials right, we will receive a great spiritual blessing and will see the elimination of the self-life.

The best way to increase our income is to give more to the poor. (2 Cor.9:6) "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." And Proverbs 19:17, "He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done."

If a person has no concern and overcharges for services or sales, (Proverbs 28:8 warns) "He who increases his wealth by exorbitant interest, amasses it for another, (one)who will be kind to the poor."

The proposition that God offers is this, that if we will deposit our surplus cash in Heaven's bank, it becomes a treasure in Heaven (like an inexhaustible account with our name on it).

God owns the wealth of the universe. If we have turned over our property, our real estate, our house, and surplus cash into His bank, we have the privilege of drawing from that inexhaustible treasure in Heaven while here on earth-- as long as we need even a penny.

The Bible spells it out very clearly in Luke 12:33, "Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted."

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