

LBC Discipleship Course

Know Christ & Make Him Known Lesson 7: "Money, Job, & Possessions" (TC)

Matthew 6:19-21 - "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: (20) But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: (21) For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Colossians 3:23 - "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;"

Psalm 24:1 - "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."

Malachi 3:10 - "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Does the Bible say anything about money, jobs and possessions? Yes. The Bible contains more than 2,350 verses dealing with money and possessions. 11 of 39 parables talk about money. 1 out of every 7 verses in the Gospel of Luke talks about money. Jesus talked about money more than He did Heaven and Hell combined, and more than anything else, except the Kingdom of God. Consider the impact money, jobs and possessions have in our lives:

- They are an influence on most of the decisions we make.
- They impact us on a daily basis.
- They influence our walk with Christ.
- They are a primary competitor with Christ for the Lordship of our lives.

What does the Bible teach regarding our money, job, and possessions?

- I. **Ownership:** God owns everything! (Psalm 24:1)
 - a. God is the Creator of all things. (Exodus 20:11, John 1:1-3)
 - b. God is the Owner of all things. (Psalm 24:1)
 - c. God owns believers twice; He created us and redeemed us with the price of His Son Jesus Christ. (I Cor. 6:19-20)
- II. **Responsibility / Stewardship:** We are called to be stewards of all that we have, knowing it doesn't belong to us. (I Cor. 4:1-2)
 - a. We are stewards of our time. (Proverbs 27:1; James 4:14)
 - b. We are stewards of our talents. (James 1:17; Romans 12:6)
 - c. We are stewards of our treasures (money and possessions). (Haggai 2:8)
 - d. We are stewards of our trades (occupations and careers). (Ps. 75:6-7)
 - e. We are stewards of our temples (lives, families and children). (I Cor. 6:20; Psalm 127:3)
 - f. We are stewards of everything we could claim to be ours! (I Cor. 7:23; Acts 20:28)
 - g. Results from wise stewardship:
 - i. Honoring God, in turn God honors you. (Proverbs 3:9)
 - ii. God's house (the local Church) is provided for, we will be blessed, Satan rebuked, and the fruit of our labor is protected. (Malachi 3:10-12)
 - iii. The fulfillment of the Great Commission. (Matthew 28:18-20)
 - iv. The fulfillment of the Great Commandments. (Matthew 22:36-40)
- III. **Accountability:** We must give an account of what we have done with what God has entrusted to us! (II Corinthians 5:10)

- a. All believers will stand before Christ in judgment according to their works, whether good or bad. (II Cor. 5:10)
 - b. All believers will be tried, but not for salvation. Jesus Christ took this judgment on the Cross of Calvary! (II Corinthians 5:21)
 - c. Rewards will be handed out according to our works. (I Cor. 3:11-15; Rom. 8:31)
 - d. These rewards will be cast back before Christ. (Rev. 4:10-11)
- IV. **Tithing:** Returning to God what He requires. (Malachi 3:8-10)
- a. A person doesn't give their tithes, they return them.
 - b. Tithes: means tenth or 10% of all we receive.
 - c. Tithes are to be brought to God's storehouse. The Old Testament storehouse was the Tabernacle, then the Temple. In the New Testament it is the local church. (I Cor. 16:1-2)
 - d. The tithes are to be brought on Sunday, the Lord's Day. (I Corinthians 16:1-2)
 - e. Were tithes only to be given under the law?
 - i. Abraham gave the tithe before the Law. Gen. 14:20 "...And he gave him tithes of all."
 - ii. Jacob gave the tithe before the Law. Gen. 28:22 "And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee."
 - iii. God commanded the tithe from those under the Law. Leviticus 27:30 "The tithe... is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord."
 - iv. It was also after the Law had been broken. (Malachi 3:8-10)
 - v. Jesus confirmed it in Matthew 23:23 that the Pharisees and scribes should not have neglected to give the tithe and offering; "these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."
- V. **Offerings:** Giving above and beyond what is required. (Luke 6:38)
- a. Offerings are over and above the tithe or the first 10%.
 - b. Offerings are to be brought to God's storehouse, the local church.
 - c. Biblical offerings were given for building needs, missions work, aid for the poor, and other needs as God and His Word directed. (Exodus 35:4-5, 21; 36:6-7; I Chronicles 22 & 29; II Corinthians 9:0:1-5; Philippians 4:14-19; Acts 11:27-30)
 - d. Offerings should be given willingly (Exodus 35:5, 21), sacrificially (Mark 12:41-44), and cheerfully (II Corinthians 9:7).
- VI. **Contentment:** Life's not about what we have, but Whose we are and where we are going! (Matthew 6:33)
- a. Contentment is being satisfied with God's provision. (I Timothy 6:8)
 - b. Spurgeon: "Contentment is not getting what you want, but wanting what you have."
 - c. Discontentment with our position in life is dissatisfaction in God's provision. (Philippians 4:11)
 - d. Godliness with contentment should be the goal. (I Timothy 6:6)
 - e. A desire to be rich brings snares and heartache. (I Timothy 6:9)
 - f. Having money isn't wrong, money having us is. (I Timothy 6:10)
 - g. Naked was I born, naked shall I return. (Job 1:21; I Timothy 6:7)
 - h. Question: How do you know if you have an unhealthy affection towards money? Consider the following areas and the way you use these to attain more money: Time, talents, treasure, and your temple (body). Is Christ or covetousness first in these areas?