

2. Worship and trust God rather than money

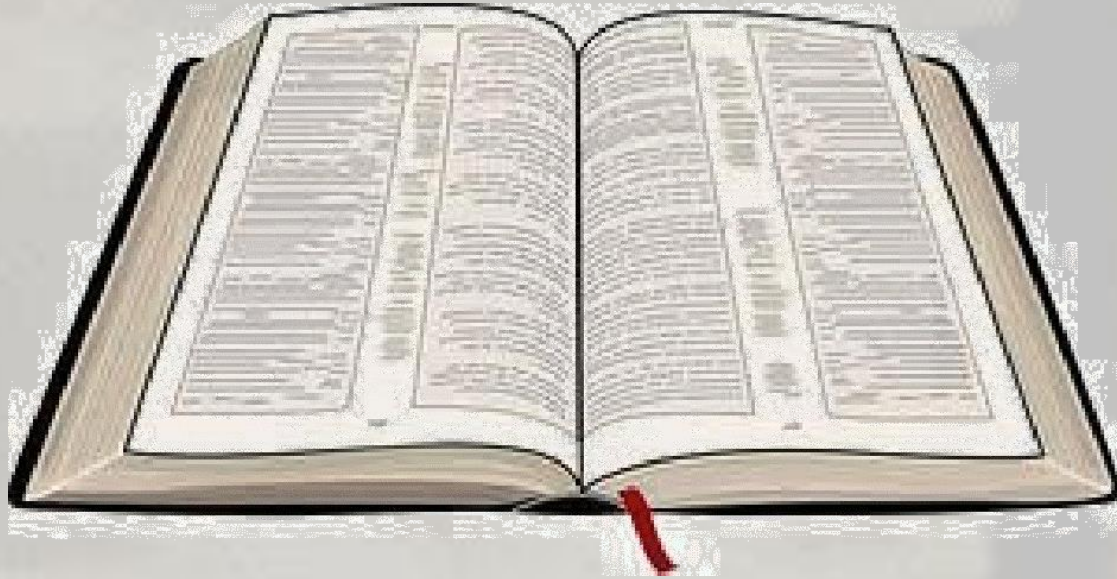


Ten biblical principles about money and wealth

A survey of Scripture

1. God owns everything and we are His stewards
- 2. Worship and trust God rather than money**
3. Beware of the love of money
4. God cares how we manage our money
5. Honor God by faithfully giving of our income
6. Develop a lifestyle which creates margin
7. Cultivate a generous heart and live sacrificially
8. Care for the poor, weak, oppressed, and needy
9. Use wealth to glorify God and build treasure in heaven
10. Pursue the true riches rather than material wealth

The Bible teaches us to worship and trust God rather than money



The goal of our study is a transformed heart

The underlying theme of this seminar

God wants our heart

The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith.

1 Timothy 1:5 (NLT)



Principle #2: Worship and trust God rather than money

Outline

- **Part I: Worship God**
 - ◆ **Key Bible passages**
 - ◆ **6 principles concerning money and worship**
 - ◆ **3 consequences of pursuing God rather than wealth**

- **Part II: Trust God**
 - ◆ **An unreliable source of security**
 - ◆ **Can our wealth extend our lives?**
 - ◆ **Whom should we trust?**

Key Bible passages

No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Matthew 6:24 (NLT)

Though you are such wicked rebels, my people, come and return to the LORD. I know the glorious day will come when each of you will throw away the gold idols and silver images your sinful hands have made. Isaiah 31:6-7 (NLT2)

God's attributes inform our financial world view

2. We worship God because he is El Elyon, the Most High God. We trust him because he is Jehovah Jirah—our God who Provides and he is Yahweh-Raah, The Lord my shepherd



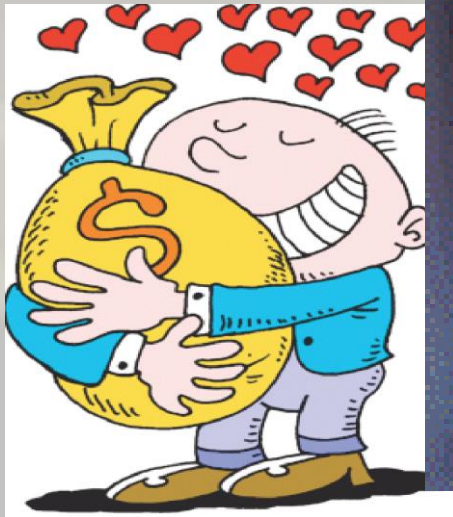
Part I: Worship God, not money

Six biblical truths



1. We must choose whom we will love and serve

- “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” Matthew 6:24 (NLT)



2. God wants us to have a rich relationship with himself rather than the world

And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.” Luke 12:15-21 (ESV)-->

3. God is the One who gives our lives value, not our possessions

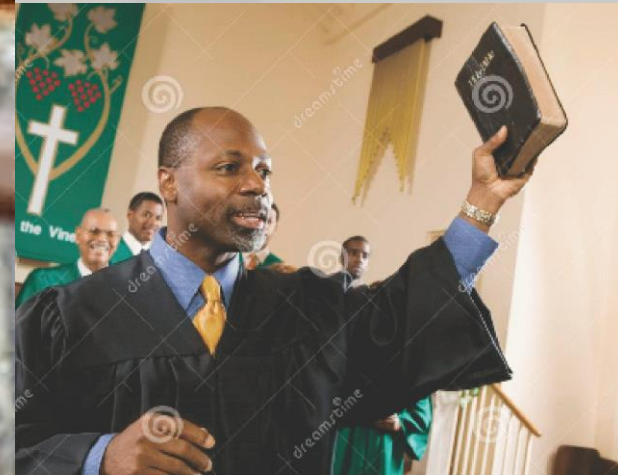
For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. Matthew 16:25



Relationships



Service



Ministry

4. Base our joy on knowing and serving God rather than pursuing riches and pleasure

■ I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness Isaiah 61:10a

■ Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Psalm 128:1 (ESV)



5. If we depend upon our money and possessions for our happiness, we may be disappointed

■ I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained **under the sun**. Ecclesiastes 2:10-11



6. Living for pleasure can be described as living death

- But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives 1 Timothy 5:6



Three adverse consequences Christians may experience for pursuing God rather than riches



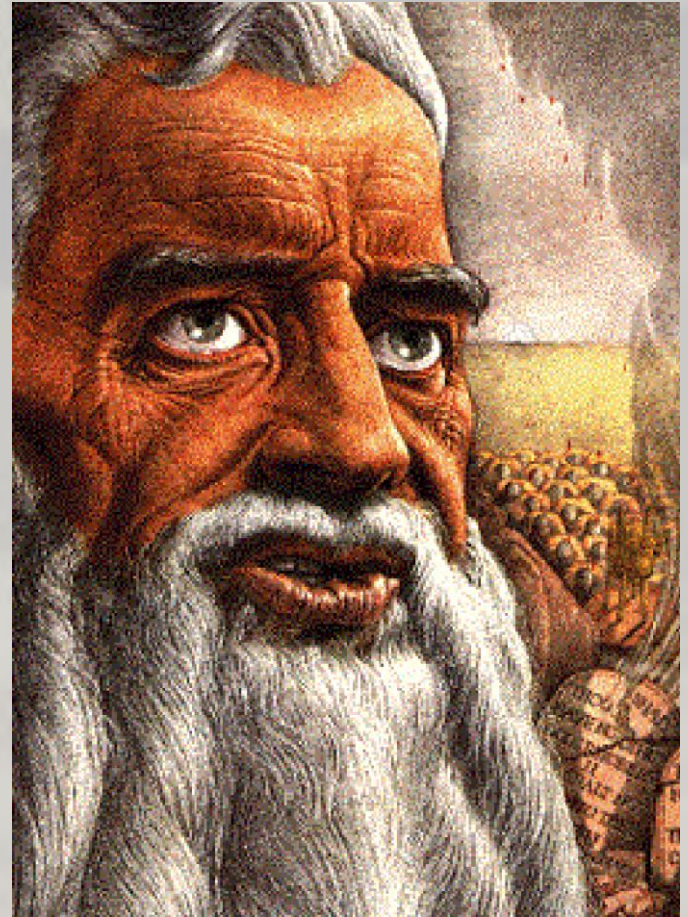
1. Hatred and disrespect from the world rather than praise

What blessings await you when people hate you and exclude you and mock you and curse you as evil because you follow the Son of Man. Luke 6:22 (NLT)



2. Oppression and discrimination

It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. Hebrews 11:24-25 (NLT)



3. Suffering and persecution



He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward.

Hebrews 11:26 (NLT)

Class discussion

- **Why do we experience hatred, mistreatment and even suffering when we pursue the things of Heaven rather than Earth?**

Part II: Trust in God rather than money



Three dangers of trusting money for our security



1. Riches are an unreliable source of security

- Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in **wealth, which is so uncertain**, 1 Timothy 6:17a



2. Our wealth won't purchase one minute of life beyond that ordained by God

- **Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death** Proverbs 11:4
- Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"' "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'

Luke 12:18-20 (NLT2) >



If trusting in money is unreliable and even dangerous

Then what should we do?



Trust God to care and provide for us, not our money

- **Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.** 1 Timothy 6:17
- **Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."** Hebrews 13:5
- **Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.** Proverbs 11:28

Essay

- **What does the Bible say about trusting and worshiping money. Compare and contrast each point with popular worldly thinking.**

Class discussion

- **Share a real-life example of someone you know who practiced either or both philosophies described in this module;**
 - ◆ **Worshipped and trusted God rather than money**
 - ◆ **Worshipped and trusted money rather than God**
 - ◆ **Hint: power, fame, pleasure are common substitutes for money as a passionate pursuit. You may use them as your examples.**

Summary



- Let the pursuit of our hearts be to love, worship, and obey Christ rather than chase after money and the things it can buy.
- God is the one who gives our lives value and meaning.
- Though the world may ridicule, despise, or persecute us for our devotion to him rather than to materialism, we are to find our joy and pleasure by knowing and serving him.
- Our wealth cannot give us security or peace, or purchase even one minute of life beyond that which is ordained by God.
- God is our provider, the source of our security, and the protector of our lives.
- We are to pursue God with a thankful, sincere, and humble heart.

Ten biblical principles about money and wealth

A survey of Scripture

1. God owns everything and we are His stewards
- 2. Worship and trust God rather than money**
3. Beware of the love of money
4. God cares how we manage our money
5. Honor God by faithfully giving of our income
6. Develop a lifestyle which creates margin
7. Cultivate a generous heart and live sacrificially
8. Care for the poor, weak, oppressed, and needy
9. Use wealth to glorify God and build treasure in heaven
10. Pursue the true riches rather than material wealth