

JAMES STUDY: SHOE-LEATHER GOSPEL
SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY
“Faith and Money”
James 5:1-6

KEY TRUTH

What We Do with money and material possessions reveals the condition of our hearts more than any other part of our lives. How we steward the money and material possessions the Lord has blessed us with-as the h_____ of our lives- gives indication of true salvation or not.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21

Bible Teaching on Money:

- There are _____ verses in the Bible about money.
- 1 out of every _____ verses in Matthew, Mark, and Luke is about material poses
- _____ of all the Gospels deals with the stewardship of money in some way
- _____ out of every _____ parables is dealing with stewardship principles

Two Myths We Must Avoid Concerning Money:

1. To be rich or wealthy is s_____.

Deut 8:18 “the Lord your God is giving you power to make wealth”

Proverbs 10:22 “It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, and He adds sorrow to it.”

2. Money is the root of all sorts of evil.

- A misquote of 1 Timothy 6:10 “For the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil.”

“The veil of money has never been about how much money you have but about how much money has you. “ AW Tozer

Truth: What is sinful is to m_____ the wealth we have.

James 5: 1-6

- A very pointed, personal, and strong message of judgment against rich people who do not use their wealth in ways that honor the Lord.
- Some have suggested James is targeting those outside the church....but he uses the 2nd person pronoun “you” addressing those inside the church who will be reading his letter
- James is addressing those who outwardly profess faith in Jesus Christ and claim allegiance to Him and yet in the way they get, spend, and misuse their money, they demonstrate otherwise.
- Problem: Rich people who were using their wealth for s_____ purposes and then persecuting and taking advantage of the poor among them in the process.

FOUR WAYS TO MISUSE MONEY

1. Those who h_____ their wealth. (v.3)

Ill. John Wendel and his sisters

Wealth in James' Day:

- a. Food (meat, grains, fruits, etc.)- "rotted"
- b. C_____ "moths have eaten"
- c. Precious Metals (i.e. silver and gold)- "rusted"

FOUR PURPOSES OF WEALTH FOR A CHRISTIAN . . .

1. P_____ for the basic needs of your family
1 Tim 5:8 "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."
2. C_____ for those in need (Gal. 2:10; 1 John 3: 16-18)
3. S_____ those who serve in ministry)1 Cor. 9:4-14; Gal 6.16)
4. T_____ : spread the Gospel through the ministry of the local church

2. The Way Money is A_____ (v.4)

- The Bible condemns acquiring wealth by illegal means and for illegal purposes.

"Do not take advantage of a hired man who is poor and needy, whether he is a brother Israelite or an alien living in one of your towns. Pay him his wages each day before sunset, because he is poor and counting on it. Otherwise, he may cry out to the Lord against you, and you will be guilty of sin." Deuteronomy 24: 14-15

- James is condemning wealthy people who were taking advantage of the poor by withholding payment due for their work out in the fields; not just d_____ payment but r_____ to pay at all.
- Money acquired with right motives, hard work, and wise investments honors the Lord.
- Money acquired deceitfully, unjustly, or unlawfully does not.

3.The Way Money is S_____ (v.5)

- Using wealth for our own selfish indulgence as a habitual way of life.

4.The Way Money Leads to Further Acts of Sin (v.6)

- Implication is the wicked rich were manipulating the court system to murder those poor they owed money to

III. Bernie Madoff

So, what's the PROPER USE of money...a use that honors the Lord?

“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 for us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to **do good**, to **be rich in good deeds**, and to **be generous** and **willing to share**. In this way, they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”

1 Timothy 6: 17-19

“Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say ‘Who is the Lord’? Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.”

Proverbs 30:8-9 (Prayer of Agur)

Book Recommendation on a Biblical Use of Wealth and Material Possessions

Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn