

December 2, 2018

Earthly Riches

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
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Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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Visitors are welcome
We offer Bible classes for all ages
We also offer in-home Bible studies

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

Many views exist relating to earthly possessions. Consider seven *biblical truths* about earthly riches, each of which is taught by the Holy Spirit in **1 Timothy 6**.

1) Godliness is Not a “Means of Gain”: A characteristic of the sinner mentioned in **1 Timothy 6:3-5** is that he supposes “*that godliness is a means of gain.*”

Some teach that Christianity is a blueprint for being wealthier than those around us. This is sometimes referred to as the “prosperity gospel.” Such false teaching leads to under-valuing the *true* riches available in Christ.

What is ironic about the “prosperity gospel” is that the One CHRISTianity is founded upon was at times poor during His earthly ministry (**Luke 9:58**).

While *some* of Christ’s disciples are materially rich (**Matt 27:57**), not nearly all are (cf. **2 Cor. 11:27**). Christianity is not a recipe for becoming wealthy.

2) Godliness with Contentment is Great Gain: After stating the error of those who suppose “*that godliness is a means of gain,*” the inspired apostle “turned the tables” to show how godliness and gain *are* connected. **1 Timothy 6:6: *But godliness with contentment is great gain.***

Those who are godly and content with however much or however little they have (**Phil. 4:11-12**) gain *spiritual* riches through Christ. These riches cannot be measured with dollar signs (cf. **Rev. 2:9**).

Earthly Riches

(Continued)

3) Beware of Covetousness: The Holy Spirit went on in **1 Timothy 6** to stress the need for contentment and dangers of covetousness (**verses 7-10**).

Covetous individuals include **“those who are determined to be rich”** (1 Tim. 6:9). Covetousness is idolatry (Col. 3:5). It is in many ways the opposite of contentment.

Such coveting demonstrates a distorted view of life. As Jesus said in **Luke 12**, **“Beware! Keep yourselves from covetousness, for a man’s life doesn’t consist of the abundance of the things which he possesses”** (verse 15).

4) Do Not Be Haughty: After speaking about those who **“are determined to be rich”** in **1 Timothy 6:9-10**, the Holy Spirit gave a charge for those who **“are rich in this present world”** in **verses 17-19**. He first warned against haughtiness.

Like Nebuchadnezzar (**Dan. 4:30**), mankind can be tempted to become arrogant upon acquiring earthly riches. As Nebuchadnezzar learned, this is foolish (**Dan. 4:31-33**).

5) Trust in God (Not Things): Another charge given to those rich in this world is to not **“have their hope set on the uncertainty of riches, but on the living God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy”** (1 Tim. 6:17).

Riches can be *here* one day and *gone* the next. They are fleeting. God is the One in whom we must put our hope and trust.

6) Be “Rich in Good Works”: Those who are rich in this world are not condemned for being such. In **1 Timothy 6:18**, though, they are commanded to be something more important: rich in *good works*. God exhorts **“that they do good, that they be rich in good works, that they be ready to distribute, willing to communicate;”**

Good works includes a number of things, but the emphasis in **1 Timothy 6:18** is on using what possessions we have to help those who are in need.

7) Lay Up Treasure in Heaven: The Holy Spirit finished his charge for the rich by saying **“laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold of eternal life”** (1 Tim. 6:19). This may bring to mind Jesus’ command in **Matthew 6:20** to **“lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”**

Material blessings can be enjoyed, and we should be thankful for them.

Such should not be what our hope is built on though. Earthly riches should not be what we treasure. Possessions should not be our primary pursuit in life. Hope for the Christian should rest in the *eternal* reward God promises to the faithful.

While riches do not make us better or worse than others, our *attitudes* toward riches affect how pleasing we are to God.

Whether we have a lot or a little, may we have the right attitudes toward earthly riches.

God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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Words to Consider

“Bless those who persecute you; bless, and don’t curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Don’t set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Don’t be wise in your own conceits. Repay no one evil for evil. Respect what is honorable in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as it is up to you, be at peace with all men.” –Rom. 12:14-18

Prayer List

Holly G
Barb A
Harold B (Prostate Cancer)
Sandy S (Foot Injury)
Betty P
Mabel H
Norma's Grandson, Ryan (Head Injury)
Cheryl S (Breast Cancer)
Norma C (Injuries from fall)
Jerry G (Throat Cancer)
Mattie B (Leukemia)
Tom B (Pancreatic Cancer)
Linda & Family
Dody G
Joe B (Lung Cancer)
Allen S (Cancer)
Jeanette & Family
Raymond B
Lovetta D (Knee Replacement)

Daily Bible Reading

Dec. 2 – Ezekiel 27-29; 1 Peter 3
Dec. 3 – Ezekiel 30-32; 1 Peter 4
Dec. 4 – Ezekiel 33-34; 1 Peter 5
Dec. 5 – Ezekiel 35-36; 2 Peter 1
Dec. 6 – Ezekiel 37-39; 2 Peter 2
Dec. 7 – Ezekiel 40-41; 2 Peter 3
Dec. 8 – Ezekiel 42-44; 1 John 1

“Sanctify them in your truth. Your Word is truth.” –John 17:17

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, December 2, 2018

Bible Study: Michael

Worship: Harold

Evening: John

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Dave

Cleaning Building

Paula

Prepare Communion

Paula

Upcoming Reminders

Dec. 22: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Assignments

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Reading: Steve

Announcements: Mike

Table: Dan H

Serve: Dan D

Jim

Travis

Roger

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Invitation: Michael

Anniversaries

December 6 - Steve & Misty

Birthdays

December 3 - Rowena

December 13 - Donna B

December 21 - Linda

December 21 - Christie