

**“Faith Works: Finances - The Lie:
Why You Can’t Trust Money to Make You Happy”**

Greg Wendschlag August 23, 2020

The faith work in your finances is seeing money from God’s higher perspective with a greater clarity about possessions that can only come from God.

“Someone in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed Me a judge or an arbiter between you?” Then He said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

“And He told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.” ’ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.” ” Luke 12:13-21

The Money Lie: Money = security and happiness

1. Having money will guarantee that I’ll have a great life.

“Then He said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” ” Vs 15 (Job 36:18-19; Ecc. 2:1-11)

2. My wealth is the result of what I’ve done. It’s all mine to preserve and protect.

“And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ ” Vs 16-17

“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.” Matt 6:24

• **Money isn’t evil. Ex 12:35-36**

“The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. The Lord had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.”

• **Turning money into an idol is evil. Ex 32:1-4**

“When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.” Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.” ”

- **If you serve God, money is your servant. If you serve money, you will not be devoted to God.**

"Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income."
Ecc. 5:10

The True way to look at money...

1. Money is a means to an end, not an end in itself.

"Then He said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.' " Vs 18-19

"Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death." Proverbs 11:4

2. There is only one true security: God.

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you.'" Vs 20

"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.' As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil."
James 4:13-17

3. Decide today how your money will be spent.

"'Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." " Vs 20-21

Everyone dies. How you live is what matters! Are you living your life storing up for yourself or are you rich toward God?

Closing Prayer

To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father—to Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Revelation 1:5-6