

THE VALUE OF A DOLLAR

Text: Eccl. 10:19

INTRO: The wise preacher in a few words sums up the general philosophy of his time -- & ours. It seems that for too many people, it takes a deep personal tragedy to make us aware that there are things - important, valuable things, that money cannot buy.

Our lesson is on the subject of the value of a dollar. Of course, we used the term "dollar" figuratively to include all monetary designations. What will money buy or accomplish--& what areas is it of little or no value.

A gambler once attempted to justify gambling by denying that he was trying to win money for money's sake. He said the money wasn't the main thing-"that's just how you keep score."

Money represents wealth. That's why when wages go up without an increase in production, prices go up to meet them. But I'm not here to discuss economics, except as that subject applies to Bible principles.

I. SOME THINGS MONEY WILL NOT DO.

A. Buy redemption from the slavery of sin.

1 Peter 1:18-19, You were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

B. Money cannot buy the power of H.S. baptism. Acts 8:18-23.

C. Money cannot buy Christ's good favor--not take the place of an active interest in His will.

Rev 3:15-20, I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, & have need of nothing'--& do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, & naked--I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; & white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; & anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke & chasten. Therefore be zealous & repent. Behold, I stand at the door & knock. If anyone hears My voice & opens the door, I will come in to him & dine with him, and he with Me.

D. Money cannot buy for us a home in heaven

1. We can't take it with us, 1 Tim. 6:7; Luke 12:20

2. Corruptible earthly wealth would have no value in heaven.

E. Tho money can often provide fleeting pleasure, it cannot buy lasting happiness, Eccl. 2:3-11.

F. Money cannot assure good health or buy it back when it is gone. Luke 8:43.

II. WHAT MONEY WILL DO.

A. It will bribe dishonest politicians & judges.

B. It will buy fair-weather friends.
Prov. 19:9, Wealth makes many friends, but the poor is separated from his friend.

NOTE: The kind of friends that are made by money are gone as soon as the money is gone. Someone has said, "If you lend a friend \$20 & never see him again, it was probably worth it."

C. Money can be used to pay taxes.

D. Money can be used to buy food for the hungry, Acts 4:34-35.

E. Money can be used to provide for the preaching of the gospel.

1. To support preachers, Phil. 4:16.

2. To provide a place for worship, furniture, lights, etc.

3. To buy space in newspapers, time on radio or tv, tracts, correspondence courses, etc.

III. THE LORD KNEW THE VALUE OF A DOLLAR, THEREFORE HE COMMANDED US:

A. Not to put our trust in material wealth, LK 12:15; Mark 10:24.

B. He commanded us to use money to provide for life's necessities.

2 Thess. 3:12; 1 Tim. 5:8

C. He taught us to give to carry out the work of the church, 1 Cor 16:1-2; Acts 4:34-35.

D. Finally, we should also be ready to give individually to those in need as the opportunity arises. Eph 4:28; Gal 6:10.

CONCLUSION: By correct use of our money, we establish relationships & accomplish purposes which can provide for us in eternity a wealth that far surpasses the material things that often mean so much to us in this world.

Luke 16:9, NIV, Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

By incorrect use or abuse of our money, we can endanger our souls. "You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24 NIV).

La Porte, TX, June 21, 1981

Exton, PA, November 1, 1987

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, June 27, 1993

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 10, 2004