

**BIBLICAL
PRECEPTS ON
MONEY**

Stuff—Material Things

- ⦿ How should we think about possessions and material things?
 - Good?
 - Bad?
 - Neither?

Material things are not necessarily bad

⦿ Genesis 1:1

- “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”

⦿ Genesis 1:31

- “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.”

⦿ John 1:3

- “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”

Ideas About “Stuff” Matters

- ⦿ Gnostic heresy was a serious threat to the early church
- ⦿ Gnosticism was based on a belief that material things are bad and spiritual things are good—Jesus therefore could not have really been a man.

We can be distracted by material things...making idols of our stuff

⦿ Exodus 20:3-6

- “You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath”

⦿ Psalm 16:4

- “Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more.”

How do our things become Idols?

- ⦿ They interfere with the Greatest Commandment:
- ⦿ Matthew 22:28
 - “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”
- ⦿ Matthew 6:24
 - “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

We risk getting distracted by material things and believing that what we see is all that exists—and God warns us of this

◎ Psalm 62:10

- “if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.”

◎ Matthew 6:21

- “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

But...material things do not last forever

◎ James 4:14

- “For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”

◎ Matthew 6:19

- “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy , and where thieves break in and steal.”

There is a reality about money and things that God wants us to know about

- ◎ It is wise to plan ahead for future times of hardship (SAVINGS)
- ◎ Proverbs 6:6-8
 - “Go to the ant, O sluggard, observe her ways and be wise, which, having no chief, officer or ruler, prepares her food in the summer and gathers her provision in the harvest.”
- ◎ Proverbs 21:20
 - “In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has.”

It is wise not to be in debt

⦿ Romans 13:8

- “Owe no one to anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.”

⦿ Proverbs 22:7

- “The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.”

Planning and Hard Work are Key

⦿ Luke 14:28-30

- “For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it”

⦿ Proverbs 27:23

- “Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds.”

⦿ Proverbs 21:5

- “The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.”

Money should be earned honestly and people should try to provide for their family

⦿ Proverbs 13:11

- “Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.”

⦿ 1 Timothy 5:8

- “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

⦿ 2 Thessalonians 3:10

- “. . . If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”

Don't be naïve about money

⦿ Matthew 10:16

- “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”

⦿ Proverbs 1:5

- “A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel.”

We can trust that God will provide our security

⦿ Philippians 4:6-7

- “Be anxious for nothing. . . .”

⦿ Philippians 4:19

- “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

Any wealth we have is God's

◎ Psalm 24:1

- “The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness. . . .”

◎ Deuteronomy 26:12

- “When you have finished paying all the tithe of your increase”

◎ Genesis 28:22

- “. . .and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”

Wealth can be used to help others

- Luke 10:35 (Parable of the Good Samaritan)
 - “The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’”