

"THE FACTS OF THE MATTER"

"A weekly letter of encouragement to business and professional men and women"

January 11, 2006

Good Morning!

WEALTH – WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT IT? (Part #3)

Here's Yogi Berra's perspective on money's changing value, "*A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore.*"

On a more serious note, B. C. Forbes makes this poignant observation on the effect money can have on us, "*How many men I know who are earning dollars aplenty, but who are really earning little of what counts. They are so overwhelmingly engrossed in business that they get nothing from their dollars. The Juggernaut of dollar-making has crushed out of them every capacity for genuine enjoyment, every grace, every unselfish sentiment and instinct.*"

The Scriptures teach:

Wealth is allowed by God in the lives of people of His choosing: For example, Joseph of Arimathea, "*...There came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus.*" (Matt. 27:57) Other would include Abraham (Gen. 13:2,6), Isaac (Gen. 26:12-14), Esau (Gen. 36:6,7), Solomon (I Kin. 3:13), and Job (Job 42:12) "*Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all.*" (Prov. 22:2)

Wealth can be used as a great source of blessing to others: "*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 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.*" (I Tim. 6:17-19)

Wealth can create short memories as to its source (God): "*When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day.*" (Dt. 8:10,11) (See Prov. 30:8,9)

Wealth can lead to a life of worthless indulgence: "*...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.*" (Lk. 12:16B-21) (See Jer. 17:11; Matt. 6:19,20; Lk. 6:24; 12:33; 1 Tim. 6:17-20)

Wealth, and our lust for it can deceive us into believing that its accumulation is the answer to life's meaning: "*...Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.*" (Lk. 12:15b)

Wealth and our love and pursuit of it is inherently self-destructive: *“People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”* (I Tim. 6:9,10) (See Prov. 15:27; 29:4; Isa. 5:8-10; Jer. 17:11)

Wealth has the potential of seducing us into putting our trust in it rather than God: *“The rich think of their wealth as an impregnable defense; they imagine it is a high wall of safety.”* (Prov. 18:11 – NLT) (See Job 31:24; Psa. 49:6; 52:7; Prov. 11:28; Matt. 13:22; I Tim. 6:17)

My prayer is that you are having a great week!

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