

4Ws **MONEY:** **GOOD** OR **EVIL?** **CHOOSE WISELY**

MAY 15, 2022

WORSHIP

Today, Better Than Life,
Risen Savior Broken
Vessels, Christ is Enough

WELCOME

What's the first thing you
usually do after receiving
your salary?

WORD

MATTHEW 6:19-24

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! ²⁴ No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

Many people do not understand MONEY properly. Is it good or bad? The reality is that there are many Bible verses about money; how you deal with money gives a revelation of your heart. **Luke 19:6-9** and **Matthew 19:21-26** gives us a picture of that reality in encounters that Jesus had with people who had issues with possessions and money. Jesus taught about the reality of the soul and gave a command to sell possessions and give to the poor. More than the issue of money, Jesus addresses here the heart and faith of people. Is money good or evil? It depends on how we look at money. Our choices on spending, saving, and even working to earn will impact our future. We are to **CHOOSE WISELY**, and to do that, we also need to understand The **THEOLOGY** of MONEY:

1. TWO TREASURES

Matthew 6:19 gives us a negative, present tense command – and sometimes, we end up having wrong conclusions about this command to stop laying down treasures on earth. What was Jesus talking about here? In those days, people displayed wealth through their clothes. But God is not against treasures or money. The desire for treasure is not wrong, but **vv. 20-21** clarifies the picture – there was even a command to store up treasures, but He desires for us to have **TRUE TREASURES**. He doesn't want us to waste our lives going after the wrong ones. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. It means where you invest, dedicate, and put your efforts in, your heart and passion will also be there. You would want to know what's happening with treasures you invest because it means so much to you. So if you invest in the things of God, you will be very interested in how your investment is doing!

Have you asked yourself where your money is going? How do you spend it? Does it bring glory to the Lord?

Is there anything wrong about money? **1 Timothy 6:10** points out that it is “**the love of money**” being the root of all evil. Materialism, greed, and covetousness is dangerous and can happen to anybody. **2 Timothy 4:10** shows an example in the life of Demas who loved the world. We should not make money our first love. This is a sin so subtle – it is like idolatry. The Bible is also clear – if we look at **Proverbs 6:6-8** prudence and saving up is encouraged. Money is an instrument used by God to provide for needs, but it is also used by the enemy to divide people. **Ephesians 4:18** also emphasizes the importance of working and earning, so that we will be able to bless and help others. Even for those who are rich, **1 Timothy 6:17-18** even gives instructions to enjoy the fruit of our labor. However, to convert earthly treasures to heavenly treasures, we must learn to be a blessing to others!

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2. TWO PERSPECTIVES

Matthew 6:22-23 continues to give us an analogy about contrasting attitudes on money. Our human eyes are likened to windows--we must pray for the eyes of our heart be enlightened (**Ephesians 1:8**). The theology of money tells us that money is neutral, but we need to have the right perspective about life and money because until a person's perspective changes, they will only view life on the temporal level. In **Luke 12:15**, Jesus gave a warning for perspectives – He asks for our eyes to be open. “BEWARE” in that verse is a present imperative command. What is going on in your heart? Make sure you are constantly guarding yourself and avoid wrong perspectives on money.

Jesus talked about a very successful man who decided to enjoy the fruit of his labor (**Luke 12:18-19**). Money is not just for your own enjoyment. God gives you money not just to enjoy it yourself – the sobering reality was given in **Luke 12:20-21** – we do not bring our money with us when our day comes! A fool is somebody who just thinks short-term. Unopened eyes and unchanged perspective can derail even our eternal direction.

3. TWO MASTERS

Matthew 6:24-25 is a fitting reminder to all of us. It is possible that our god may not be money – but all of us tend to place something over and above God. Whatever that is, we are doomed! We are to choose the RIGHT GOD. If our God is the God of the Bible, we are commanded to stop worrying. Many of our countrymen live by hand-to-mouth existence, yet even with that reality we are to put God first because **Matthew 6:31-34** tells us that our Heavenly Father cares. We will not stop worrying until we learn to trust God completely. The sad reality is that many people have not come to trust God completely.

When God is our master, we can be used by Him so mightily. The late Dr. Bill Bright and his wife had a contract with God which showed total surrender to Him – to do whatever He wants them to do, go wherever He wants them to go, and say whatever He wants them to say. That contract surrendered everything to God. The most important decision is to see Jesus as our one and only Master. **Joshua 24:15** reminds us to CHOOSE WHO WE WILL SERVE – and we need to choose wisely. As Joshua stated, may we also make that commitment – TO SERVE THE LORD. If we make Him Master of our lives, we will be able to make very important decisions and actions that will glorify God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

How can money be good or evil?

2. Setting It Right.

How do you use your money? Do you consult with God before spending?

3. Living It Out.

How can you stop worrying about money?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people who may be careless towards the use of money or worry a lot about money. Pray that they will be able to trust God as He provides for them in ways that only He can. Pray for them and share Bible lessons on how to be wise in using money. Share Christ to them that they may live for Him and invest in eternity by blessing others and giving to the Lord's work.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of newly-elected and incumbent public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- For the Russian invasion of Ukraine to stop; peace and order be restored, lives spared. Russian and Ukrainian soldiers, families, leaders to turn to Christ; refugees be given safe passage into surrounding nations.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

MATTHEW 6:19-21

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal.