

## Editorial Thought...

# God And Money...

*"Trust in your money and down you go!  
Trust in God and flourish as a tree!" (Proverbs 11:28)*



Daniel Seay

We live in an age that is obsessed with personal wealth. It is thought that it is the root cause of happiness and the primary indicator of success. This is not a new thought pattern. From the earliest of times, even God's people viewed personal financial success as an indicator that God was pleased with their lives and was endorsing their life choices through the tangible evidence of personal wealth. However, the Bible (i.e. God's communication to us) does not promise wealth to those who faithfully serve the Lord. There is no promise in the Bible that being a Christian will lead to a good job, a preponderance of wealth, or freedom from debt. Some would argue, then, "What's the point in serving the Lord?" Others will debate that position by proclaiming what is commonly referred to as "The Prosperity Gospel", which unashamedly advances the idea that "since God owns the world, if you are a child of God the world [and all its wealth] is your rightful inheritance". Is that right? Those who author this position use the following as their proof: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11 - NIV)

In context, this verse was directed specifically to the Israelite exiles in Babylon. The original Hebrew word translated as "prosperity" can mean peace, completeness, safety, health, satisfaction or blessings. It does not imply personal financial prosperity. The NLT translation probably comes closer to the intended meaning: "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11 - NLT)

The truth is, God's faithful people may be rich or poor (2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 17:3-5, Job 1:1-3, Matthew 27:57, Mark 12:41-44, Luke 16:19-22, 19:2-9, Proverbs 22:2, Luke 6:20). But *Wealth* is not a sign of God's favor. As mentioned before, in Biblical times it was a common belief that great wealth was a sign of God's favor and poverty was God's punishment for an evil life. And there are passages that reflect the idea that poverty was used by God as a natural consequence of foolish or sinful behavior (Proverbs 6:9-11, 20:13, 23:21).

However, Jesus denied that wealth is a sign of God's favor or that poverty is God's punishment for sin. This is shown most clearly in His *Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus* (Luke 16:19-31). At least part of the reason the rich man ended up in hell was because of his hard-heartedness toward the beggar Lazarus. His great wealth was obviously not a sign of God's favor. The beggar Lazarus ended up in heaven although he was about as impoverished as a man could be. His poverty was obviously not a sign of sinfulness or foolishness.

Despite the Bible's many warnings against it, the idea that wealth is a sign of God's favor and that the poor have done something to deserve their condition persists as an undercurrent today that is sometimes used to justify a callous attitude toward those who are poor. The basis of that mentality is "materialism" and materialism is its own kind of religion with money as *central* in importance as God is to the Christian. Hence Jesus stated, *No man can serve two Masters... You can not serve both God and Money* (Matthew 6:24). The Christian is called to *Love others and use things*, not the other way around.

## News And Notes

### Our Prayer List

Rob Harris, Kathy Collins, Chris Folster, Gwen Gann, LouAnn Gann, Josh Werner, Billye Werner, June Brant, Donna Spader, Rozalyn Boggs, Alice Jones, Diana Nordin, Jeannette Pope, Betsy Pippin, Our Elected Officials and all World Leaders.

*"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."*  
[James 5:16b]

### Statistics

For The Week Of September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Sun3ay Class	11
Sunday AM	16
Sunday PM	8
Wednesday PM	6 - work night
Contribution	\$455.60
YTD Budget (38 x \$735)	\$27,930.00
Difference Year-To-Date	-\$1335.90
Savings Account Balance	\$2,281.01

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:12 - 'Your generosity is doing great things

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

**Birthday:** Rob Harris (19) / **Anniversary:** Flessners (1)

### COMING EVENTS

#### Pantry Is Empty

**- Let's Restock To Be Prepared-  
Steak Fry At The McCallie's  
- Saturday, October 1, 5pm -**

**Ladies Day In Coffeyville – Nov 12<sup>th</sup>  
- Lunch Provided – RSVP By Nov 5<sup>th</sup> -**

### SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray fervently for **Kathy Collins** (knee surgery soon), **June Brant, Rob Harris, Gene Barnes, Jozie and Christina Thompson, C.J. Watkins, Jimmy Golden, Charlene Edgett, Chris Folster, Sharon Miller** (neighbor of Peggy), **Scott Law** (relative of Billie Werner), **Lou Ann Gann**, and **Jackie Peters** (friend of the Gann's).

**STEAK FRY – THIS SATURDAY AT 5PM  
AT THE MCCALLIE'S HOME  
(RIDE SHARE WILL MEET AT THE BUILDING AT 4:30PM)  
- Plan To Be A Part -**

## Agenda For Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Theme:**

**WAKE UP THE WORLD**

**Today's Topic:**

**"God And Money"**

AM Class: **AD – Film Series Study**

Teacher: Chase Harris / *In The Blue Room*

10:30 am: **Two Masters = No Masters**

- Text: Matthew 6:24, 13:22 / Romans 2:22

1 pm: - **The Root Of All Evil-**

-Text: 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:10, 17-18

Wed. 7pm: **Class Study "BELIEVE"**

Wade McCallie, Teaching

### Special Prayer Requests

Pray Special And Specific Intercessory Prayers For:

June Brant	Gwen Gann
Rob Harris	Alice Jones
Kathy Collins	Allen Sullivan
Billye Werner	Tim & Chandra Stebbins
Jackie Peters	Cynthia Bradley
Chris Folster	Paul & Kathy Apprill
Roy Bays	Charlene Edgett
Gene Barnes	Jozie Thompson
C J Watkins	Scott Law
Sharon Miller	Jimmy Golden

*"But people who long to be rich soon begin to do all kinds of wrong things to get money, things that hurt them and make them evil-minded and finally send them to hell itself."*

**- 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:9 (TLB) -**

