

“The American gods of Money and Comfort” (Part 1)
1 Timothy 6:6-10,17-19

“We live in the richest nation in history, amongst the richest Christians in history, with little to no fear of the dangers of money. If this is true, then Christians will have to work harder than any other group of Christians in history to show that money is not our god. The heart naturally loves money.” (Waldean Wall)

“The inner essence of worship is the treasuring of God as infinitely valuable above everything. The outer forms of worship are the acts that show how much we treasure God. Therefore, all of life is meant to be worship because God said whether you eat or drink or whatever you do — all of life — do it all to show how valuable the glory of God is to you (1 Corinthians 10:31). Money and things are a big part of life, and therefore God intends them to be a big part of worship — since all of life is to be worship.” (John Piper)

“There is a PURSUIT of money, an AMOUNT of money, and an ATTITUDE toward money that is spiritually destructive. The Biblical worldview is to move towards simplicity and generosity for the sake of the gospel, not towards luxury and finery.”

- Warnings About Riches:
 - “As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the *CARES OF THE WORLD* and the *DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES* choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.” (Matthew 13:22)
 - “No one can *SERVE* two masters, for either he will *HATE* the one and *LOVE* the other, or he will be *DEVOTED* to the one and *DESPISE* the other. You cannot *SERVE* God and money.” (Matthew 6:24)
 - What does it mean to serve money? It means that we align our behaviors, priorities, words, and thoughts to maximize the amount of money that we have so that we can maximize the pleasures and security of having money. What does it mean to serve God? It means that we align our behaviors, priorities, words, and thoughts to maximize our knowledge of God so that we can maximize the pleasure and security that comes from knowing and enjoying God.
 - “And Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Truly, I say to you, only with *DIFFICULTY* will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.’” (Matthew 19:23-24)
- Important Statements About Money:
 - “And He said to them, ‘*TAKE CARE*, and *BE ON YOUR GUARD* against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.’” (Luke 12:15)
 - “Keep *YOUR LIFE FREE* from love of money, and *BE CONTENT* with what you have, for He has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’” (Hebrews 13:5)
 - “And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, ‘You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.’” (Mark 10:21)
 - “Sell your possessions, and give to the needy [spiritually and physically]. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Luke 12:33-34)
 - “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

Announcements:

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner TONIGHT immediately following the worship service. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!

★**PAINTING VOLUNTEERS:** On Friday, March 10th, and Saturday, March 11th, from 8am to 4pm we will be painting the church entryway! We are looking for people to volunteer for at least one of the two hour time slots on one or both of those days! There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign-up to help us with this project. All of the supplies will be provided, we just need able bodied volunteers who are willing to give us a couple hours of their time to paint during that weekend. If you have any questions, please see Emily Decker.