

May 22, 2016; Matthew 6:19-24

“Where Is Your Treasure?” / Prayer

2 great realities in our lives: God and money...money as a great reality: songs, movies, stock market, stress

1. There is nothing inherently wrong with money, riches or wealth.

In fact, nothing in creation is inherently wrong. This includes work, sex, food, money, education, art, business, nature, etc. The material world is created by a good God.

“For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer” (1 Timothy 4:4-5).

2. Everything in creation can become a “rival god,” leading us away from the Father.

“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below” (Exodus 20:4).

i. Power, sex and money can have specific power over us.

Money wields very powerful and negative influence and control over people...it promises so much

Stanford school of business: “The more people earned, the more they said money mattered to them.”

“Money has never made man happy, nor will it, there is nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more of it one has the more one wants.” (Benjamin Franklin).

Money as addiction; people willing to steal, lie and even kill to have it. The “dark side” of money—it can lead us away from God.

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, **it is hard for someone who is rich to 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 someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:23-24).

ii. How does money lead us away from God?

- “Treasure” (vv 19,20, 21)—“my precious”
- “Heart” (v 21)—“the worship centre of our lives”
- “the eye of the body (vv 22-23)
- Not a means but a “master” (v 24)

3. Breaking the power of money on our lives

1. Gospel: “For you know **the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,** that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

2. Grief: “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” (1 Timothy 6:10).

3. Generous: “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 whoever stores up things for themselves **but is not rich toward God.**” (Luke 12:20-21). = “storing up treasures in heaven”