

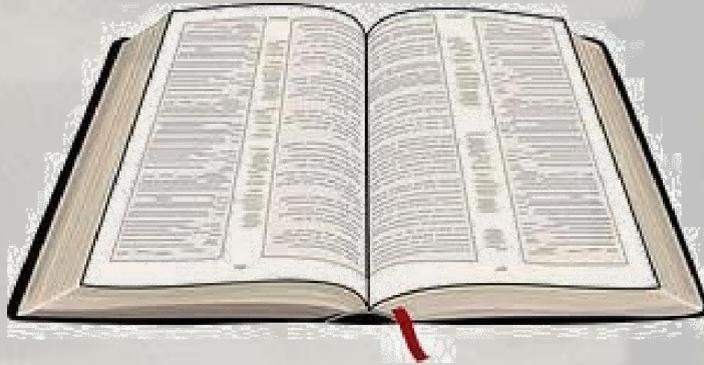
Ten biblical principles about money and wealth

A survey of Scripture

1. God owns everything and we are His stewards
- 2. Worship and trust God rather than money**
3. Beware of the love of money
4. God cares how we manage our money
5. Honor God by faithfully giving of our income
6. Develop a lifestyle which creates margin
7. Cultivate a generous heart and live sacrificially
8. Care for the poor, weak, oppressed, and needy
9. Use wealth to glorify God and build treasure in heaven
10. Pursue the true riches rather than material wealth

Principle #2. Worship and trust God rather than money: Here is the second principle: God wants us to worship and trust him rather than money. In this module we will discover important Biblical truths about money including the fact that it cannot save us, it cannot extend our lives, it is not reliable as our security, and it can be a snare to those pursue it.

The Bible teaches us to worship and trust God rather than money



The goal of our study is a transformed heart

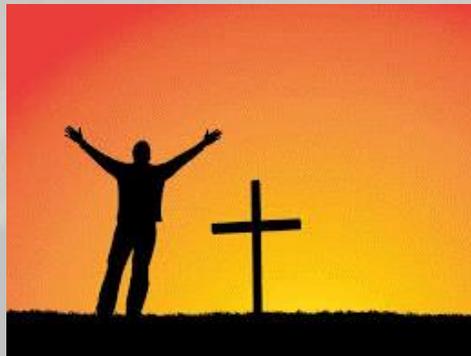
The Bible teaches us to worship and trust God rather than money: As was true in our study of principle 1, our purpose for this module is to allow our hearts to be transformed by God's word so that we learn to appreciate His heart. We study his Word because his Word reveals His nature which serves as a model for us.

The underlying theme of this seminar

God wants our heart

The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith.

1 Timothy 1:5 (NLT)



The underlying theme of this seminar: Our theme verse is 1 Tim 1:5. We'll read this in every module to let it sink into our hearts (Class reads Scripture).

Principle #2: Worship and trust God rather than money

Outline

- **Part I: Worship God**
 - ◆ **Key Bible passages**
 - ◆ **A rich relationship with God**
 - ◆ **What gives our lives value**
 - ◆ **The basis for our joy**
 - ◆ **A big disappointment**
 - ◆ **What is “living death”**
 - ◆ **Why the world hates us**
- **Part II: Trust God**
 - ◆ **An unreliable source of security**
 - ◆ **Can our wealth extend our lives?**
 - ◆ **Whom should we trust?**

Principle #2: Worship and trust God rather than money: in this module, we will look at several aspects of money which can compete with our worship of God. We'll consider what gives our life value and discover the basis for our Joy. Then we'll be reminded that money is neither our true source of security nor is life-giving.

Key Bible passages

No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Matthew 6:24 (NLT)

O LORD, I give my life to you. I trust in you, my God! Do not let me be disgraced, or let my enemies rejoice in my defeat. No one who trusts in you will ever be disgraced, but disgrace comes to those who try to deceive others. Psalm 25:1, 3 (NLT)

Key Bible passages: let's read two key verses pertaining to this principle (Class reads Scripture).

Part I: Worship God, not money

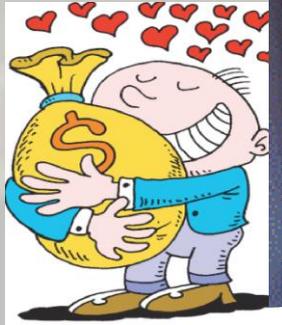
6 Biblical truths



Part 1: Worship God, not money. Let's examine 6 aspects of worshipping God rather than money.

1. We must choose whom we will love and serve

■ **“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”** Matthew 6:24 (NLT)



1. We must choose whom we will love and serve: First, the Bible makes it clear that we must choose whom we will serve. Let's read Matthew 6:24 together. There appears to be a clear-cut choice between serving God or money. However, sometimes we may think we can have it both ways. What are some of the subtle ways we do this? Do you think it's possible to deceive ourselves into thinking we can serve God and money? Can you give me an example of someone you know that has made this mistake?

2. God wants us to have a rich relationship with himself rather than the world

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.” And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.” Luke 12:15-21 (ESV)-->

2. God wants us to have a rich relationship with Himself rather than the world: Secondly, God wants us to have a rich relationship with himself rather than the world. Let's read Luke 12:15 through 21. We see from this passage that we are to measure the value of our lives based not on our material wealth but rather on our spiritual relationship with God. What does it mean to “be rich towards God?”

3. God is the One who gives our lives value, not our possessions

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. Matthew 16:25



Relationships



Service



Ministry

3. God is the One who gives our lives value, not our possessions: The third point is similar to the second point. Besides God giving our lives meaning he also gives our lives value that transcends this world's standards. Let's read Matthew 16:25 (Class reads Scripture).

4. Base our joy on knowing and serving God rather than pursuing riches and pleasure

■ I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness Isaiah 61:10a

■ Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Psalm 128:1 (ESV)



4. Base our joy on knowing and serving the Lord rather than the pursuing riches and pleasure: The fourth point is God's Word teaches us that our joy should be centered on knowing and serving him rather than pursuing wealth. Isaiah 61:10 and Psalm 128 1 speak to this (Class reads Scripture).

5. If we depend upon our money and possessions for our happiness, we may be disappointed

■ I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun. Ecclesiastes 2:10-11



5. If we depend upon our money and possessions for our happiness, we may be disappointed: The fifth point is this: if we depend upon our money and possessions for our happiness, we may be disappointed. Let's read Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 (Class reads Scripture). We live a hollow and unsatisfying existence if all we pursue is what this world can offer.

6. Living for pleasure can be described as living death

■ **But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives** 1 Timothy 5:6



6. Living for pleasure can be described as living death:

The 6th and final thought on this principle of worshiping God rather than money is this: the Bible paints a pretty bleak picture about those who live for pleasure. Let's read 1st Timothy 5:6 (Class reads Scripture). There are many other passages which warn us of the futility of living for pleasure. I don't think any of us want to be dead men walking, but this is the picture Scripture paints for us when our chief pursuit in life is to live for pleasure. In this verse the Bible calls it a living death. I know I want to have the Lord say "Well done thy good and faithful servant" when I face him someday.

These six points are by no means exhaustive but they do give us several views of the overall landscape we are considering.

3 consequences Christians may experience for pursuing God rather than riches



3 consequences Christians may experience for pursuing God rather than riches: Let's now look at three social consequences that Christians may face if they pursue God rather than riches. Our spiritual journey to know God more intimately will eventually be rewarded but not necessarily in this life.

1. Hatred and disrespect from the world rather than praise

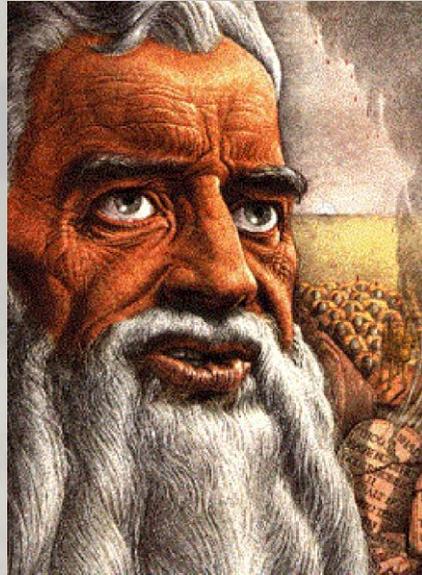
What blessings await you when people hate you and exclude you and mock you and curse you as evil because you follow the Son of Man. Luke 6:22 (NLT)



1. Hatred and disrespect from the world rather than praise: the first consequence of pursuing an intimate relationship with God above everything else (including material wealth) is that we may be despised by the world. We should not expect the world to admire or respect us if our life's main pursuit is spiritual rather than material. Let's read Luke 6:22 (Class reads Scripture).

2. Oppression and discrimination

It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. Hebrews 11:24-25 (NLT)



2. Oppression and discrimination: We may face oppression as Moses did. It may cost us a promotion at work or certain friendships. Read Hebrews 11: 24-25 (Class reads Scripture).

3. Suffering and persecution



He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward.

Hebrews 11:26 (NLT)

3. Suffering and persecution: We may not only experience ridicule and unfair treatment but actually suffer for Christ if we choose the things of God rather than man. Let's continue reading the next verse in Hebrews 11. (Class reads Scripture).

Class discussion

- **Why do we experience hatred, mistreatment and even suffering when we pursue the things of Heaven rather than Earth?**

Class discussion

Part II: Trust in God rather than money



Part II: Trust in God rather than money: This takes us to part 2 of this module: Trust in God rather than money. We will examine some of the pitfalls we face if we choose to trust in money as our security and source of fulfillment.

Riches are an unreliable source of security

- **Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, 1 Timothy 6:17a**



Riches are an unreliable source of security: We all desire security for ourselves and our families. The world believes that money is the secret to protection from all sorts of trouble that may endanger us. But the Bible does not teach this. Rather, the Bible teaches us that money is an unreliable source of security. Read 1st Timothy 6:17a (Class reads Scripture). What was once considered valuable can turn worthless in a very short time. Many of the companies who dominated their market during one period of American history were almost totally replaced by new companies that didn't even exist when they were in their heyday. Examples include trains which were replaced by airplanes, horse buggies which were replaced by automobiles, and land lines which were replaced by cell phones. If you have lived for any length of time, you have witnessed this phenomenon that investments once considered

safe have become worthless.

Other instances where money is not a reliable asset include theft, loss, inflation, devaluation, and government regulation.

Our wealth won't purchase one minute of life from God:

- **Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death** Proverbs 11:4>



Our wealth won't purchase one minute of life from God:

We must realize that wealth will not extend our life beyond what God has ordained for any given individual. We do know that the Bible talks about lifestyles that can cut our lives short. And it lists some things that actually can extend our life. Let's look at one example of a life-extender found in the book of Proverbs. Let's read Proverbs 11:4.

Trust God to care and provide for us, not our money

■ **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.** 1 Timothy 6:17

■ **Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."** Hebrews 13:5

■ **Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.** Proverbs 11:28

Trust God to care and provide for us, not our money: The Bible makes it clear that we are to trust God to care and provide for us--not our money. Let's read three verses that teach this: 1 Timothy 6:17, Hebrews 13: 5, and Proverbs 11:28.

Essay

- **What does the Bible say about trusting and worship money. Compare and contrast each point with popular worldly thinking.**

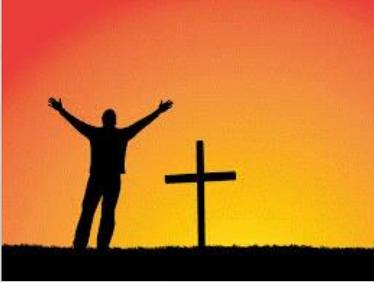
Essay

Class discussion

- Share a real-life example of someone you know who practiced either or both philosophies described in this module;
 - ◆ Worshiped and trusted God rather than money
 - ◆ Worshiped and trusted money rather than God
 - ◆ Hint: power, fame, pleasure are common substitutes for money as a passionate pursuit. You may use them as your examples.

Class discussion

Summary



- Let the pursuit of our hearts be to love, worship, and obey Christ rather than chase after money and the things it can buy.
- God is the one who gives our lives value and meaning.
- Though the world may ridicule, despise, or persecute us for our devotion to him rather than to materialism, we are to find our joy and pleasure by knowing and serving him.
- Our wealth cannot give us security or peace.
- God is our provider, the source of our security, and the protector of our lives.
- We are to pursue God with a thankful, sincere, and humble heart.

Summary: Let's summarize principle #2. The passion of our hearts, the focus of our energy, and the direction of our will should be to worship and trust God for our needs and wants rather than to pursue material things. Let our focus be to develop a strong and intimate relationship with Christ. Our pursuit should be to know him.

Let's remember that it is God who gives our lives value and meaning. We know that the world may ridicule, despise, or persecute us for our devotion to Christ but he is well worth it. Our money cannot give us security or peace. Only God can do that.

He is our provider; he's our protector; he's our source of security. He preserves and extends our lives. And if by God's

grace he gives us material things, we should receive them with open hands and a humble, thankful heart. Then, by his grace, offer them back to him to use according to his will.

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Principle #2. Worship and trust God rather than money: end of module