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***Money Advice for the Rich & Poor***

**Pastor Peter Nikkel**

**Coast Hills Community Church**

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**James 1:9-11 (NLT)**

9 Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. 10 And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field. 11 The hot sun rises and the grass withers; the little flower droops and falls, and its beauty fades away. In the same way, the rich will fade away with all of their achievements.

**James 1:9-11 (TLB)**

9 A Christian who doesn’t amount to much in this world should be glad, for he is great in the Lord’s sight. 10-11 But a rich man should be glad that his riches mean nothing to the Lord, for he will soon be gone, like a flower that has lost its beauty and fades away, withered—killed by the scorching summer sun. So it is with rich men. They will soon die and leave behind all their busy activities.

What does this passage say about money?

The rich and the poor both have reason to be happy.

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The Bible has dozens of warnings for the rich and this Book of James has some of the sternest:

5:1 Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you. 2 Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the Day of Judgment.

1 Timothy 6:6-10 (NLT)

6 Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. 7 After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can’t take anything with us when we leave it. 8 So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. 9 But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

A Steward is a person who manages another’s property.

Stewardship - the duties and responsibilities of a steward.

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NLT) 2 Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.

Dick Towner, Staff member at Willow Creek in Chicago, has a nice overview of the Christian’s responsibility in money matters:

Earning - diligence

Giving - generosity

Saving (Investing) - wise

Debt - caution

Spending - prudent.

You can be poor and have financial freedom.

You can be rich and be in financial bondage.

Financial freedom is a function of two things: 1. Of our actions - what we do with what we have.

2. Of our attitude - a question of whether we’re filled with faith or fear; filled with gratitude or greed, whether we’re contented or dissatisfied.

Our giving reflects the love in our hearts.

II Cor. 8:8 “I am not commanding you but I want to test the sincerity of your LOVE”

Matt. 6:19—24 “Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth, where moth and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven…FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS THERE WILL YOUR HEART BE ALSO.”   Vs.24 “NO ONE CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS. Either he will hate the one and love the other or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. YOU CAN NOT SERVE BOTH GOD AND MAMON (money)

Malachi 3:10-12New Living Translation (NLT)

10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test! 11 Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. 12 “Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.

Luke 6:38 (NLT)

38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”

Highlights of Pentecost - The coming of the God’s Spirit

Acts 1:8 (NLT)

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

John 16:13 (NLT)

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.

Ephesians 5:18-20 (NLT)

18 Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, 19 singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. 20 And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!