

THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT MONEY



Tiny children are often fascinated with money because it is shiny and small enough to go into their mouth. Then, kids reach the point when they understand that money has the power to buy things. That is a new reason to like money. Later, in their teenage years their thinking can be dominated by a desire to possess money in order to impress others or to buy things that dad and mom won't buy for them. As adults, well, a lot of adults are still fond of money.

Money, in and of itself, possesses no moral qualities. Money is neither righteous nor unrighteous. Money is an inanimate object, a means or tool to help humans obtain something else. **It is one's attitude toward money or riches that counts.** In order to help us keep a handle on our attitude, we offer the following six truthful statements about money. May they serve as a reminder and/or warning to all of us.

(1) Money cannot buy love. Way back in the 1960's the Beatles were singing, "I don't care too much for money, 'cause money can't buy me love." It was true then, and it is still true now. Money may impress folks and attract them to a money-possessing person, but money cannot buy genuine love. Young people, are you listening?

(2) Money doesn't grow on trees. How many times did we hear our parents tell us that when we wanted something that we could not afford? Because it is true that money does not grow on trees, and we cannot have it at the snap of our finger, then we need to be good stewards with the funds that God has placed in our hands (1 Corinthians 4:2). Our Lord says, "Owe no man anything ..." (Romans 13:8). Christians ought not to use credit cards to the extent that they get themselves into debt that they cannot pay off.

(3) Money is not the root of all evil, but the love of money is (1 Timothy 6:10). The love of money is covetousness, and covetousness is idolatry (Colossians 3:5). Such a love affair with material riches has ruined friendships, marriages, and even congregations. How sad.

(4) Money never has and never will save a soul. Money can be used to help support the preaching of the gospel (2 Corinthians 11:8,9). It is also an instrument that assists us in edifying the faithful, but still, money cannot save souls.

(5) Money will not accompany us when we leave this world. Regardless of how much money one has, the money stays behind - you can't take it with you. "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." (1 Timothy 6:7).

(6) Money is not success, and success is not possessing money. Oh, if we could only help folks, including ourselves, see this point! Some rich people will go to hell. And, some poor folks will go to heaven. **One's eternal destiny is not determined by his/her financial status.** You want success, you say? Then listen carefully to what the Lord once told Joshua: "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." (Joshua 1:8). THAT is true success.

Let each of us resolve to accept the truth about money, and in the process beware of "the deceitfulness of riches" (Mark 4:19).

- Roger D. Campbell, Union Grove Church of Christ, Cleveland, TN

Money talks, but it doesn't always talk sense.

News & Notes

CONFESSION: Wade Sprout.

SYMPATHY: To the family & friends of Mary Powell (friend of Marlene Reynolds) who passed away this past week. God bless all who sorrow.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

NURSING HOME VISIT: Next Saturday, Dec. 1st, 2:30 p.m. at Fox's.

FOX BIRTHDAY PARTY: This congregation has been asked to sponsor a birthday party at Fox Nursing Home for the residents who have December birthdays. The party will be Thursday, Dec. 13th at 2:30 p.m. Money donations and volunteers are needed to help with the party. See Martha Noland for details.

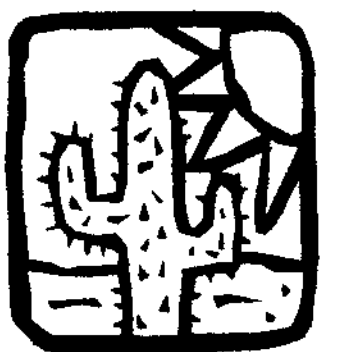
PANTRY: Spaghetti & sauce. Please help restock the pantry.

CONTINUE TO REMEMBER WITH CARDS AND PRAYER: The following have serious health or physical concerns: Jim Carbone (Helene Wilson's son-in-law), Bette Gentry, Dan Williams (Sharon's husband), Cole Bellon (Michelle Hanlon's nephew).

SICK & SHUT-IN: AT HOME: Harry Nice, Fred Rayl, Shirley Beagle, Doris Dunham, Don Parsons, Ella Beagle, Diane Robinson, Lloyd & Virginia Ferrell, Bette Gentry, Dan Williams, Lloyd Cowdery, Mabel Sprout, Virginia Rickerd, Fred & Jean Larrimore, Sr., Fred Larrimore, Jr., Cheryl Stackpole. **NURSING HOMES:** Fox: Ray Baker. Pleasantview N. Retirement & Rehab., Salem: Ruby Kenney. Weirton Geriatric Center: Edna McKitrick, Ila Plum. Aspen Manor, Wellsburg: Ione Asher.

I AM THE WAY

A man wishing to travel across a certain desert, hired a local guide to take him across. When the two men arrived at the edge of the desert, the traveler, looking ahead saw only trackless sands without a trace of a footprint, nor a path and certainly no road. Turning to his guide he asked, "Where is the road?" Stepping ahead as he began to lead the way, the guide replied, "I am the road."



When Thomas, one of the apostles asked the Lord, "How can we know the way?" Jesus answered and said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes unto the Father except by me." (John 14:5,6).

Indeed, Christ is the only way to salvation. Many people are following a path of their choosing which can only lead to destruction. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 16:25). It will be the word of the Lord, not man which will judge us (John 12:48).

Let's be sure we are traveling HIS path!

- Tim Gentle, Waurika, OK, via *Bulletin Digest*