

The Treasure Principles

Giving in Light of Eternity

Stop Worrying About Now And Start Thinking About Then

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / February 9, 2025

Jesus talked about money more than heaven or hell, because He knows there's an inescapable money-heart connection and He's all about getting a hold of our hearts.

See **Luke 12:15-21**.

Principle #4 - I Should Not Live For The Dot, But For The Line

Live for eternity instead of this temporal, time-bound world!

Death will separate you and all of your money forever.

Luke 12:20 "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you...'"

You can make a lot of mistakes in this life and still survive, but it's a fatal miscalculation to live like this life is all there is, especially with your money!

Look at the question God asks the rich fool in **v. 20**, because it's a question that should cause you to reconsider what you're doing with your money.

Luke 12:20 "...and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?"

But to send it on ahead, you're going to have to fight against greed and covetousness.

Luke 12:15 "...Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness..."

There's a vigilant, militant feel to this verse because we're in a spiritual war for our souls, so the stakes are high because money is one of Satan's favorite devices for distracting us from the main thing!

Ephesians 5:3 "But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people."

Notice two things God's putting together in this one verse: sexual sin (Porneia) and greed (Pleonexia)!

He put these two things together because in the same way that "Porneia" or sexual sin can get its hooks in you and start to own you, rule you, and destroy you, so can "Pleonexia."

Principle #5 - Giving Is The Only Antidote To Materialism

You don't fight materialism by trying to grab hold of your heart and redirect it. The Bible says you put materialism to death by redirecting your money more and more to people and places outside of yourself.

If you want to put the "More Monster" to death, you've got to start giving away more money.

Trying to feed the "More Monster" is like chasing the wind!

Ecclesiastes 5:10-15 "Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. ¹¹ As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them? ¹² The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep. ¹³ I have

seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner, ¹⁴ or wealth lost through some misfortune, so that when he has a son there is nothing left for him. ¹⁵ Naked a man comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand."

v. 10 "Whoever loves money never has money enough..."

The more you have, the more you want.

v. 10 "Whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income."

The more you have, the less you're satisfied.

v. 11 "As goods increase, so do those who consume them..."

The more you have, the more people (including the government) will come after it.

v. 12 "The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of the rich man permits him no sleep."

The more you have, the more you have to worry about.

v. 14 "Or wealth lost through some misfortune..."

The more you have, the more you have to lose.

v. 15 "Naked a man comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand."

The more you have, the more you will leave behind.

Principle #6 - God Prospers Me Not To Raise My Standard Of Living, But To Raise My Standard Of Giving

Break out of the "Bump & Jump" mentality where every time your income takes a bump, your lifestyle takes a jump.

Instead, start doing the "Bump & Pump." Every time you get a bump in pay, look for a way to pump more of it into God's work.

Christians have been misusing **Matthew 6** and it's caused Christians to drift into disobedience with their giving, because nobody's talking about it since they think giving is supposed to be done in secret so they don't lose their reward.

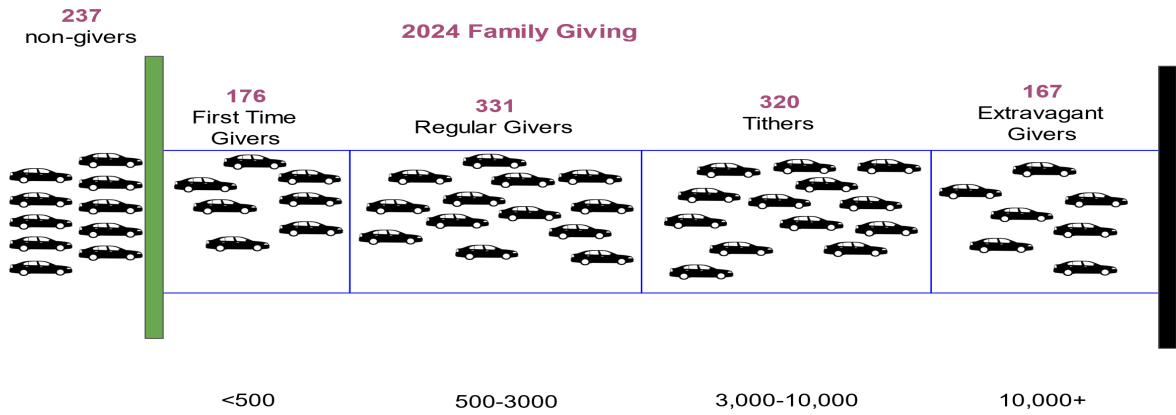
Matthew 6:1-4 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people *in order* [*'hina' clause – purpose*] to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ² Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

The best time to start obeying God with your money is always today, whatever season you're in. Watch what God can do when He sees you trust Him and honor Him with the money He sends your way.

Two assignments:

1. Take a step forward in your giving.

If you call Grace Fellowship your church family, find yourself on the giving chart and ask God to give you the grace to go to the next level this year.



2. Set up your giving to our church family to be automatic.

Go online to graceky.org/give (or the homepage and click the "Give" button).