

In this world, we find two types of people in relation to money. First those who use money for its intended purpose to the glory of God, and those whose God is money.

In Matthew 6:24 Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Then, in the story of the young rich ruler of Matthew 19:17, the young man asked Jesus what he must do to have eternal life. Jesus told him to keep the commandments.

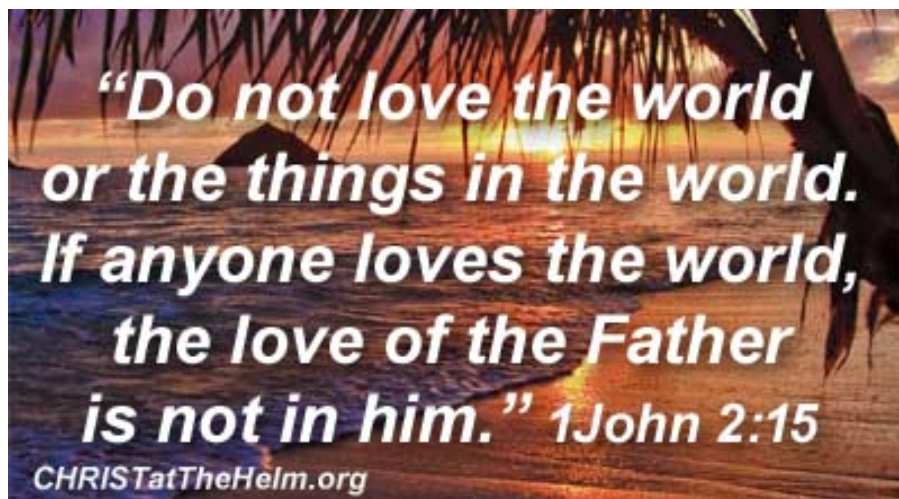
In verses 20-22, "The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions."

Jesus warned us in Luke 12:15: "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Then in Luke 16:11 He added, "If you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?"

Let's ask ourselves, "Is my heart with God, or is money becoming my god?"

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What should our heart attitude be towards money or possessions?

1Tim. 6:17-19: "Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. *Let them* do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

Prov. 23:4-5: "Do not overwork to be rich; because of your own understanding, cease! Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle *toward* heaven."

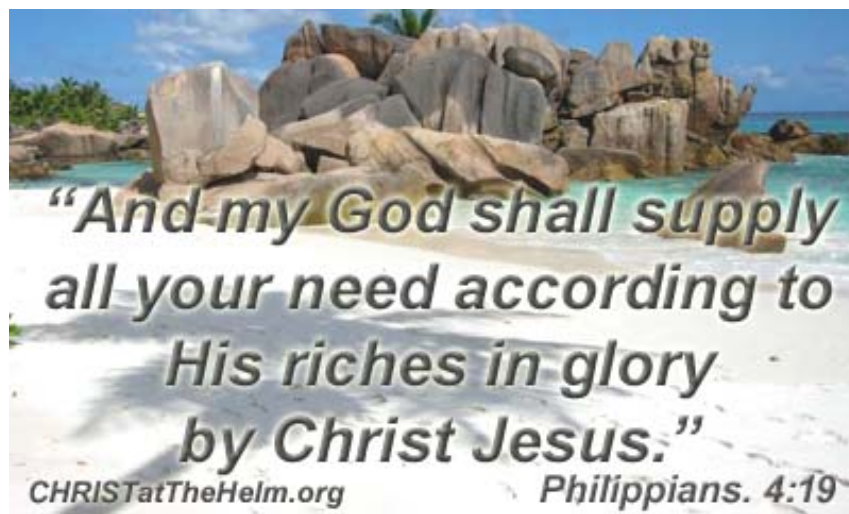
Prov. 30:8-9: "First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?"

1John 2:16-17: "For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."

Philip. 4:6: "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done."

What is my attitude towards money and possessions?

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Can we trust God to provide for our needs? What does the Word of God say on this?

Mat 6:31-34: "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today."

Hebrews 13:5: "*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

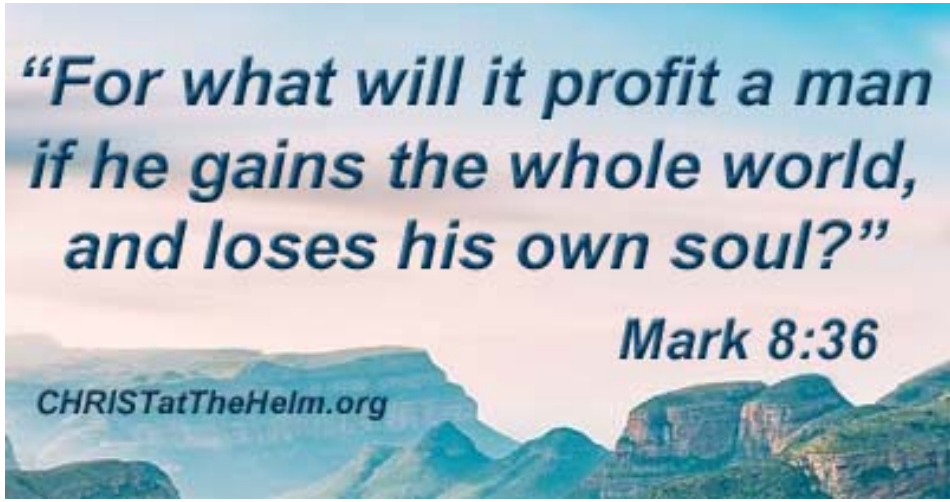
2Cor. 9:8: "And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work."

Philippians 4:12-13: "Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Deut. 8:18: "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth."

Do I trust God to provide for my needs, or am I focused on money and the world's wealth?

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**“For what will it profit a man
if he gains the whole world,
and loses his own soul?”**

Mark 8:36

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In life, we either choose to live by the wisdom of God, or else we follow the foolish and morally corrupt world. What does the Word of God teach us about the love and pursuit of money?

Proverbs 16:19: “Better *to be* of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

Proverbs 10:2: “Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, but righteousness delivers from death.”

Proverbs 13:11: “Wealth *gained by* dishonesty will be diminished, but he who gathers by labor will increase.”

Proverbs 15:27: “He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live.”

Proverbs 23:4: “Do not overwork to be rich; because of your own understanding, cease!”

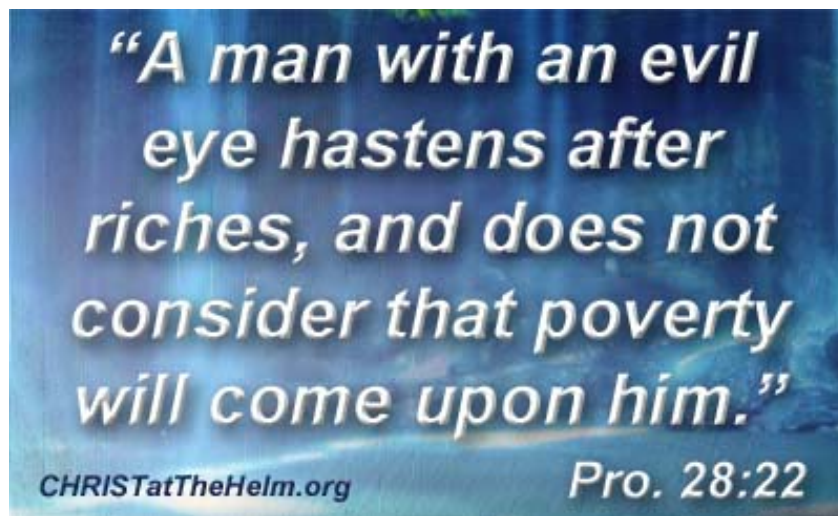
Ecclesiastes 5:10: “Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!”

Ecclesiastes 7:12: “Wisdom and money can get you almost anything, but only wisdom can save your life.”

1Cor. 3:19: “For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness”

Do I understand that money and possessions won't follow us in eternity, and as well those who love and lust after money make it their god, and will end up lost eternally?

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Throughout the Word of God, we are warned against the pitfalls of making money our god. Here they are:

Proverbs 11:28: "He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage."

James 5:1-3: "Come now, *you* rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon *you!* Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire."

Revelation 3:17: "You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked."

Ephesians 5:5: "For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."

Matthew 13:22: "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the Word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the Word, and he becomes unfruitful."

Finally, in Matthew 19:23 Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven."

Do I understand that making money the focus of my life is an evil trap that has serious and eternal consequences?

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