

2019.11.10



Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Discussion & Application

- Have you ever heard a “prosperity preacher” such as Pastor Doug described? Were you **mainly** attracted or repulsed by the message—and **why**? **In what ways** do you think God is **dishonored** by the “health and wealth gospel”?

Have you ever heard someone promoting “poverty theology”? How did/do you respond? **Why** do you think it is **much less common in America** than prosperity theology is?

- Pastor Doug mentioned four errors to guard against:
 - taking credit for one's prosperity
 - becoming ungrateful
 - feeling guilty
 - linking your security with your your prosperity

Which of those errors are you **least** likely to commit? **most** likely? **Why** do you think that is?

- Read Matthew 6:25. What do you think an impartial observer who looked at your calendar and your checkbook would conclude about who you serve?

What changes do you think the Lord Jesus Christ would have you make...

- in the way you spend your His(!) time?
- in the way you spend His money?

- Are you satisfied with what are you doing right now with what God has entrusted you? What adjustments must you make?

Application-Challenge

Questions to ponder:

- What are you doing **right now** with what God has entrusted to you?
- Are you being **generous** with what you have?
- Are you investing in those things that are **eternally** significant?

Take One Step: What is one small, concrete step of obedience you will put into practice this week?



Sermon Summary Key Passage: Matthew 6:24

Does God want us to be healthy and wealthy, or does he disdain wealth and want us to give it all away? Which approach is biblically correct? Because the Bible has so much to say about the topic of money—over 2000 verses—you can find verses, especially if you divorce them from their context, that seem to support both sides of this argument. So, which perspective best represents the Biblical data? In Matthew 6:24 Jesus says we choose whom or what we will serve. After making that choice, we place our full confidence and dependence in it. Two things will tell you who you serve. First of all—look at your calendar. Are the entries “kingdom centered” or are they “me centered”? Materialistic people, by their choices, indicate that the highest value, the greatest good, is the pursuit of the good life—a life of comfort and material acquisition.

Well, back to our question: is it “more spiritual” to be rich or to be poor? Each position has verses to support it. If you advocate either of those positions, the “poverty view” or the “prosperity view,” you can find verses, that on the surface at least, seem to support your position. We usually pick a position based on our background, our experience, or our desires. I have problems with “poverty theology”. It’s adherents conclude that anyone who is doing well financially must be dishonest. Advocates of poverty theology over-spiritualize the role of personal sacrifice—almost making “sacrifice” a god. Often they are legalistic—and they set the standard!

But there are problems with prosperity theology, too. They view prosperity as a sign of God’s approval. Prosperity theology also encourages impure motives. I believe that God’s Word teaches “Stewardship Theology”, acknowledging that all that we have is a gift from God. The important question is not, “How much do I have?,” but rather, “What am I doing right now with what God has entrusted to me?” Those who advocate “stewardship theology” embrace proportionate giving.

In other words, you don’t give it all away, nor do you “plant a financial seed” in order to increase your wealth. You basically just “give generously” knowing that God encourages and blesses generosity. Stewards know that they are owners of nothing. They are just managing God’s resources. And they are committed to managing them wisely—whether they are in charge of a lot, or a little. They don’t believe that you can look at someone’s financial portfolio and draw any definite conclusions about whether or not they are in God’s will. Because for them, the issue is not “How much do you have?,” but “What are you doing with what you have.”

So don’t take too much credit for your prosperity. Whatever gifts and abilities you have came from God. And listen, “The Lord gives and the Lord takes away.” I know some very smart, hard working people who have lost everything. And don’t be ungrateful. Don’t think, “Because I serve God faithfully I deserve to be blessed financially.” What we deserve is hell. But God loved us so much that He sent His Son to keep us from going there. Every good thing we get in life is a gift from God. God doesn’t owe us anything. We should be grateful for everything that we have. Don’t feel guilty. If you’re a multimillionaire, don’t feel guilty. Feel blessed. But recognize that with great wealth comes great responsibility. Jesus said, “To whom much is given, much is expected.” Be generous. Bless others as God has blessed you.

Now God calls some people to give up all of their possessions. Mother Teresa became poor and lived and ministered among the poor. But she was able to do what she did because those whom God called and enabled to make money helped support her various ministry initiatives. If you believe that God wants you to take a vow of poverty, you do that. And if you believe that God has gifted and enabled you to make money so that you can invest it in kingdom purposes, then you do that. What we must not do is judge others in this area and say, “I’m right and you’re wrong.”

Don’t link your security with your prosperity. When you have great wealth, it is easy to begin to find your security and identity there. Your ego becomes attached to your stuff. That is when you are in trouble. “Stewardship position” best represents balanced biblical teaching. Biblical stewardship isn’t focused on how much you’ve got. It asks one very simple question. “What are you doing right now with what you’ve got?” I can’t tell you how many times someone has said to me, “Pastor Doug, if I ever inherit a bunch money, or if I were to win the lottery, I’d give a bunch of it to the church.” But stewardship doesn’t ask, “What would you do if you had such and such amount of money?” Stewardship asks, “What are you doing right now with what God has entrusted to you? Are you being generous with what you have? Are you investing in those things that are eternally significant?”

WHAT SHE SAW
CHANGED EVERYTHING

UNPLANNED



“Unplanned” is the inspiring true story of one woman’s journey of transformation.

All Abby Johnson ever wanted to do was help women. As one of the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic directors, she facilitated more than 22,000 abortions. Then Abby saw something that led her to quit the abortion industry and become an ardent pro-life speaker. No matter what you think about abortion, “Unplanned” is one woman’s thought-provoking experience in this controversial issue.

TODAY 4PM

FREE — Adults Only
(teens when accompanied by a parent)
Multi-Purpose Room
Triangle Community Church



MAKE HISTORY WITH US!

LARGEST GATHERING FOR LIFE IN FRONT OF ABORTION CENTERS THIS COUNTRY HAS EVER SEEN.
CALLING FOR 10,000 PEOPLE BETWEEN THE FOUR CITIES FOR THIS PRAYER WALK.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH

8-9AM CHECK-IN (ARRIVE EARLY)
9-11AM PRAYER WALK

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

Summit Church — Raleigh
3249 Blue Ridge Road

RSVP AT LOVELIFE.ORG



Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page to the left) is a simple way to study any topic. Let's use it to learn more about biblical attitudes toward money...

Monday— Study Deuteronomy 8:17-18

Tuesday— Study 1 Chronicles 29:11-12

Wednesday— Study Ecclesiastes 5:10, 19

Thursday— Study 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Friday— Study 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Saturday— ***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study Matthew 25:14-29.

Need blank copies for doing more
"Five Question Bible Study"?
e-mail: Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]