

EPISODE 010: "CAN CHRISTIANS BE WEALTHY? RICHES AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH."

Context:

When we look at scripture, wealth and riches are used interchangeably. Apart from wisdom itself, the writer addresses wealth and poverty in Proverbs. There are more than 100 verses in Proverbs related to wealth and poverty.

Wealth is a gift to the believer when it comes from God; however, it can be a curse if it leads us away from God.

Webster Dictionary – Wealth- an abundance of valuable possessions or money; the state of being rich; material prosperity; plentiful supplies of a particular resource.

Misinterpretation of wealth -James 5:1-3 and Revelations 3:17 a

James 1:17 says, ***“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”***

1. Can wealth be seen in scripture? _____.

- A. When we look at scripture, we can see different biblical characters who were wealthy
 - a. _____. (Genesis 13:2) *Now Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold.*
 - b. _____. (Genesis 26:12-13) *And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The Lord blessed him, and the man became rich and gained more and more until he became very wealthy.*
 - c. _____. (1 Kings 10:23) *excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.*
 - d. _____. (Matthew 27:57-60) *When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus.*
 - e. _____. (Luke 19:2) *And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich.*
- B. These individuals were wealthy and were used powerfully by God.
- C. Wealth does not determine one's _____ and one's _____ to God.
- D. Your financial portfolio does not determine or dictate your standing and status with God.

2. What is the issue with being wealthy as a Christian?

- A. The big issue with being wealthy stems from our _____ toward wealth rather than the _____ of wealth.
- B. We often encourage people to make money, secure the bag, or get the bands, but it comes at the expense of a person's _____ life.
- C. Understand there is nothing wrong with being wealthy, as long as your wealth doesn't _____ from God.

- a. The Rich Young Man Matthew 19:16-30
 - i. Why does Jesus tell this young man to sell his possessions and give to the poor?
 - 1. It's the man's _____ that is the issue. He places wealth above a relationship with God.
 - 2. He wanted to _____ eternal life through his good works, so long as he was not required to give anything up.
 - 3. He prioritized _____ and possessions first.
- D. Wealth can quickly become an _____ (Psalm 62:10)
 - a. Wealth can often cause us to be spiritually _____, but it can also make us believe that _____ will take care of everything.
 - b. David wants us to understand in Psalm 62:10 that wealth can't _____ you. So don't set your heart on it.
- E. The _____ is the root of evil. (1 Timothy 6:10)
For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
 - a. This is a verse that often gets misquoted as if money is evil. Timothy wants us to understand that MONEY isn't the root of evil; it is the LOVE of money.
- F. The love for riches can cause a believer to _____ from the faith.

3. Should Christians be poor?

- A. Christians don't have to be poor, but we must keep our _____ of material things in perspective.
- B. **Material impoverishment is not more intrinsically spiritual than material abundance.** Unknown
 - a. You are not more spiritual just because you are poor. Nor are you God's favorite because you are _____.
 - b. God is the only one who truly knows why some are _____ with more than others.
 - c. Could it be that the reason you aren't wealthy is because God knows it would do more _____?
 - i. But one thing we all can rest on is that God promises to provide for our needs.
 - ii. And he is able to fulfill his promise as the provider _____ making you rich.
 - d. So, our pursuit shouldn't be on wealth. It honestly makes no difference when we commit everything to God.

4. What should wealthy Christians do?

- C. Wealthy people should use their wealth not just for personal gain but for _____ . It's not something we covet; it's not a _____ for good behavior. It is a tool to be us.

- i. Our wealth shouldn't cause us to think we are _____ than anyone else.
- ii. Our wealth shouldn't deceive us into thinking it can _____ us. We can't depend on it. Our hope should be set on and in God.
- iii. God is the source of all that we enjoy.

D. What should I do with my wealth?

- a. I must understand that while this might be in my bank, it _____ to our God. So I must:
 - i. _____ - Malachi 3:10
 - ii. _____ - Deuteronomy 15:7

E. 1 Timothy 6:17-18

- a. Be rich in good works, and let your exceptional net worth be matched by exceptional service to benefit others.
- b. _____!!!!
- c. God has no issue with believers being wealthy. Have money, but don't let the money have you.