

What Your Money Can't Buy

Introduction. One of the most common temptations is the desire to obtain wealth. Material possessions become a “god” to many (Ephesians 5:5). All kinds of evil results from pursuing wealth, and one of the greatest is that our eyes are blinded to the more important concerns.

The Lord considered this to be a temptation to the disciples, so He warned them (Matthew 6:19-21). Paul, guided by the Holy Spirit, warned us too (1 Timothy 6:9-10). Money itself is not evil; it is the love of it that God condemns. The word “erred” or “strayed” can also be translated “seduced”. Therefore, we can be seduced from the faith by love of money.

The Bible shows that making material goals our main concern, to the exclusion of spiritual, is foolish (Proverbs 23:4-5; Ecclesiastes 5:13-15; Luke 12:16-21). One who has accumulated wealth is considered successful and wise by the world's standards, but it may not be so by the Lord's standards (Luke 16:15). Let's consider some things which money cannot buy.

I. It Can't Buy Good Character And Reputation

- A. Character is defined as the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual, and is worth more than gold or silver (Proverbs 22:1; Ecclesiastes 7:1).
Character is the real person within, what God looks on, what God knows us to be, not what others think.
- B. It is a great challenge to build character. Time and careful forethought are required, but good character stays with a person. It follows him wherever he goes. Even the most elaborate funeral will not change what people think of us.
- C. Right character and reputation gains the confidence of others, and influences them to follow you as you follow God (Philippians 3:17-19). Those who live righteously and godly have opportunity to teach and influence others for good. They can do this at every stage in their life.

II. It Can't Buy True Friends

- A. One cannot buy true friends with money. Solomon states that the rich have many friends, but they are not true friends (Proverbs 14:20; 19:4, 6-7).
- B. Many have “fair weather friends.” They are friends when everything is going well, but in time of adversity, they vanish.
- C. A true friend loves at all times (Proverbs 17:17). True friends are made, not bought (Proverbs 18:24). Service to others and interest in their welfare is what “wins” friends (Acts 9:36, 39; Philippians 2:3-4).
- D. There is so much that can happen to us in life that a dump truck full of money can't fix, but a true friend can be invaluable.

III. It Can't Buy True Happiness

- A. Do you know what real happiness is? It is often confused with pleasure or having fun. The prodigal son thought that spending his inheritance on riotous living would bring him happiness (Luke 15:13), but this only lasted a short season

(Hebrews 11:26). Sexual pleasures, drugs, alcohol, etc., only provide a very temporary happiness. Pain and misery often follow (Proverbs 5:1-11).

- B. Lot picked a place with tremendous physical advantages (Genesis 13:10-12), but it was a disaster for him. Riches and wealth do not satisfy (Ecclesiastes 5:10-12). Many rich people have expressed how unhappy they really are, even though they have riches (cp. 1 Timothy 6:6). True happiness is a result of God's blessings (Psalm 144:15; Matthew 5:1-12; 1 Peter 1:8).

IV. It Can't Buy Entrance Into The Kingdom Of God

- A. People can enter many earthy organizations by use of money, but money does not mean anything in gaining entrance into the kingdom of God (Acts 8:20-23).
- B. Entrance is open to all on the same basis. All must admit their own spiritual poverty (Matthew 5:3). All must be willing to submit to God on His terms (Galatians 3:26-29). All must be born again to see the kingdom (John 3:3-5).
- C. The final entrance into Heaven is impossible for those who trust in riches (Mark 10:23-25). Some think they can prove the Lord wrong; that is, go to Heaven in spite of their trust in riches. They think that if they find "a very large needle and a very small camel," it will take care of it.

V. It Can't Buy One Day Of Life

- A. Most worldly people would give everything they possessed to live a while longer (Job 2:4-5; cp. Ecclesiastes 8:8). However, the righteous are an exception (Psalm 49:15; 116:15; Revelation 14:13).
- B. In most cases, the wicked would not repent if they were given more time. If they haven't obeyed God in their earlier years, they probably won't on their death bed.
- C. All material possessions are of no value when the time comes for the spirit to depart the body. Truly, "earth holds no treasures, but perish with using" so now is the time to accept God's provision of grace (2 Corinthians 6:1-2).

Conclusion. Seeking the treasures and pleasures of this earth is a endless, worthless, endeavor that profits little. They provide nothing of worth to the soul. They will cause us to be lost. Be wise enough to seek something of lasting value, which brings true happiness and satisfaction, and which endures to everlasting life.