

Greed: Good or Bad? (part two in a twelve part study)

Material wealth is the by-product of financial profit. Legitimate financial profit is the end result of hard work and sincere effort. When this sequence occurs over an extensive period of time, material wealth accumulates and people get rich. So what's wrong with that? Nothing! As long as we don't get myopic about our motivation. When the accumulation of material wealth deteriorates into an all-consuming end in itself, we will inevitably find ourselves in bondage to greed. This is why Jesus issues the following warning in Mark 8:36-37 –

“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

What better way to confront someone about their passionate pursuit of wealth? It is the ultimate wake up call for anyone striving for that goal. Why? All the money in the world will never be able to purchase your salvation. The apostle Peter emphasizes the futility of such an ambition, in 1 Peter 1:18-19 –

“. . . knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver and gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.”

With the pervasive and insidious influence of the health and wealth gospel, even a Christian can become entangled by the sin of greed. In a future segment, we will give guidance for how covetousness, in a Christian's life, can be overcome. In regard to the individual who is in the grip of greed, and has not yet made a decision for Christ, it's not too late. However, it will mean having a significant change of mind about who you are, the greatest need of your life and who Jesus Christ is.

First, you may be highly esteemed among men because of your wealth, but in God's sight, you are sinner in desperate need of Savior. Second, you may think that the greatest need of your life is more money, in order to accumulate more material possessions. It's not. The greatest need of your life is to be forgiven of your sin. Third, Jesus Christ is the only one who can meet that need. He alone qualifies as God the Son who became God the man, living a sinless life while here on earth. Most importantly, His death on the Cross paid the penalty of sin. His burial and resurrection vindicated His person and validated His death; which accomplished salvation for us all. So stop trusting in your wealth and place your trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. It will be the best decision and trade-off of your life!