

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 6:19-21**.
- B. From Roy H. Enoch (1-15-95).
- C. The scriptural use of money is an important and difficult subject:
 - 1. The teachings of X in the stories of the Rich Fool and the Rich Man and Lazarus are shocking to covetous mankind.
 - 2. The Bible is full of stories of warnings concerning money:
 - a. Achan stole the gold wedge and garments (Josh. 7).
 - b. Judas betrayed the Lord for 30 pieces of silver (Lk. 22).
 - 3. While studying this lesson, all kinds of crimes will be committed w/money for money.
 - 4. There seems to be a natural attraction for all of us to have earthly treasure.
 - a. Greed is something that seems to slip up on us gradually, as we drift farther into the love of things than we realize.
 - b. We live in luxury, yet, who does not seek more?
- D. In our text, Jesus states two conflicting ideals which divide mankind: **treasures on earth or treasures in heaven?**
 - 1. These ideals are so compelling that no one escapes from adopting one or the other. We must honestly examine our choice. Are we really putting God and others first?
 - 2. Jesus is not saying that we should not make provisions for the needs of the body. Paul said that if any would not work, neither let him eat (2Th. 3:10; Eph. 4:28).
 - 3. Jesus is warning us against worthless ideals or greed.
 - a. The point is not that we will one day lose our money, but that if money is our goal, we will lose our souls.
 - b. Man's heart will be w/his treasure (what he values most).

I. CHRIST SHOWED BY EXAMPLE & INSTRUCTION HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD MONEY.

- A. He seemed indifferent toward it.
 - 1. He never seemed to have had any possessions (Mt. 8:20).
 - 2. He was supported in His preaching by a group of women (Lk. 8:3).
 - 3. Judas was the treasurer of the apostles, not X.
- B. Much good is done in the world through the right use of money, but some of the greatest gifts are not money (Ac. 3:6).
 - 1. The greatest gifts we give to our family and friends is our self.
 - 2. Children who are given everything materially, often for time with their parents.
 - 3. Aged parents often long for their children to visit and talk with them rather than presents.
- C. Money can be a two-edged sword and destroy the one who misuses it.
 - 1. The story of the prodigal son shows the danger of misuse.
 - 2. If we are greedy for money, it can enslave and is a harsh master.
 - 3. Money tempts us to trust in it and ourselves, to be selfish, idle, wasteful, prejudiced and to forget God.
 - 4. It also tempts us to lie, cheat, steal, and wrong others in many ways.

II. WE NEED TO EXAMINE OUR OWN ATTITUDE TOWARD MONEY.

- A. Xianity is entirely a matter of character and character is a matter of attitudes or principles.
 - 1. Three stone masons were working on a large church building and were asked, "What are you doing?"
 - a. The first replied, "Cutting stone;" the second, "Cutting stone for \$7 a day;" the third said, "I

- am helping to build a great cathedral" (which one enjoyed the work?).
 - b. Our attitude toward our work determines what we get out of it.
- 2. One man was asked, "How can you give so much on what you make?" He replied, "I shovel out and the Lord shovels in; and He uses a bigger shovel than I do."
- B. We need to have a definite, fixed conviction, on how to use our money.
 - 1. With some it is pure selfishness: "All that I make is mine and I can do what I want with it."
 - 2. Many try to serve God while keeping an eye on the material things.
 - Illustration: A boy told his girl friend, "I'm not wealthy; I don't have a yacht or a convertible like Jerome Green, but darling, I love you." She replied, "And I love you, too, darling. But tell me more about this Jerome." It's a matter of attitude.
- C. The NT gives us the right attitude toward money (Phil. 4:11).
 - 1. Jesus warned of the dangers of riches, and called for **their** dedication to His service.
 - 2. "You cannot serve God AND mammon," but you can serve God **with** mammon.
 - 3. So the proper attitude toward money is: "I am God's steward. I will use whatever He blesses me with for His glory." See Prov. 3:9.

III. **XIANS ARE GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT MONEY.**

- A. Three things the world seems to desire most are: **riches, fame, and lust**. But Xians are not to act this way concerning money (Eph. 4:28).
- B. The church in the NT used money:
 - 1. To minister to the poor (Rom. 15:25-28).
 - 2. To preach the gospel (1Cor. 9:11-14; 1Tim. 5:18).
- C. Having buildings for meeting and study costs more today.
 - 1. The Lord has never taught that money and riches are evil (1Tim. 6:10; Mk. 10:24).
 - 2. Those who toil for their needs don't sin, but are doing their duty toward man and God.
 - 3. Greed for wealth is common and it is deadly.

IV. **WE SHOULD STUDY SERIOUSLY HOW MUCH WE SHOULD GIVE.**

- A. We are given some instructions about giving.
 - 1. Give as we are prospered on the first day of the week (1Cor. 16:2).
 - 2. Give as we purpose in our hearts, not grudgingly but cheerfully (2Cor. 9:7).
- B. A common question is, "Shall we tithe?"
 - 1. There are many references to tithing under the Law of Moses.
 - 2. Many do not understand the requirements of tithing. In addition to the tithes, were the animal sacrifices, free-will offerings, things vowed, and the temple tax.
 - 3. Some scholars claim that the system of tithing involved about half of the profit/income.
- C. The NT does not specify a percentage, but the amount reflects our love for God (or lack of).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Those who give themselves to the Lord, give more generously, and with joy.
- B. If you do not love to give, then give from a sense of duty until you learn to give more freely.
- C. May God deliver us from greed or selfishness.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.