

Remnant Life Church
Sunday, April 14, 2013

“Your Money?”

Part 1

“How Did It Get To This Point?”

- How much does the Bible talk about money?
 - A great deal!
 - Money; wealth; rich; riches; wages – nearly 500 times
 - More than mercy, grace and even faith

- Why is it such a touchy, forbidden or even taboo subject in the church today?
 - Down through the ages the church has handled the issue of money poorly, selfishly, greedily and contrary to the scripture.
 - Many things have been done through history in the name of the church to promote individual or political agendas using resources given by the people
 - Many churches and religions will tell you that in order to be blessed of God you must give in order to somehow purchase His favor
 - Many use guilt to manipulate
 - Still others will use pieces of scriptural truth and combine them with theological error to achieve their desired message
 - We have taught incorrectly that Jesus was poor so we should be poor to be like Him
 - We have been taught that to deny oneself means to reject everything that is pleasurable of the world
 - Jesus says this 3 times in **Matt 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23**
 - *“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”*
 - In the original language the term deny oneself means, *“...to forget one's self, lose sight of one's self and one's own interests”*
 - Some churches teach this incorrectly in order for the people to give them their gain

- Men and women in positions of spiritual authority have used their place or office to increase their own personal wealth
- It is not difficult to find information regarding the personal income of many of the house-hold name religious leaders today
 - Their salaries, homes and lifestyles are often gaudy and in many cases ridiculous
 - Blessed by God with wealth or possessions is just that, a blessing
- Why is money such a touchy subject in the church today?
 - BECAUSE CHURCHES AND SPIRITUAL LEADERS HAVE VIOLATED YOUR TRUST
- So let's go back to what we asked earlier - **What does the Bible say about money?**
 - The bulk of the Old Testament was about how to use the money of the day in more general terms and how it related to the covenant between God and Israel
 - Moses writes about possessions and giving back to God (**Lev. 27; Numb. 18; Deut. 14**)
 - Moses was teaching the people a new concept
 - They had been in captivity for over 200 years
 - He was teaching them how to handle things that they owned and would cultivate
 - Until that time they had nothing but what the Egyptians gave them and allowed them to have
 - As they prospered would they still honor God?
 - Solomon writes about financial advice (**Prov. 13**)
 - He writes again about the dangers of greed and the desire for accumulation of wealth (**Eccl. 5**)
 - The New Testament is much more specific about money and how it affects the individual
 - Jesus came not to abolish the law but fulfill it (**Matt. 5:17**) and teach that God was more concerned about their hearts, their motives and their love than what they did on the outside
 - **Luke 20:46-47** – Jesus warns against the trappings of the outside while evil is done from within
 - Jesus watches the people bring their offering and remarked on the gift of the widow woman (**Mark 12**)

- On three different occasions Jesus used money as the theme of His teaching parable (**Matt. 25; Luke 7; Luke 19**)
 - Money was a central element of what drove Judas to offer Jesus to the priests (**Matt. 26:15**)
 - Money led to Paul and Silas being flogged and thrown in prison (**Acts 16**)
 - Money led to the death of Ananias and Sapphira (**Acts 5**)
- **I don't believe that God really cares about how much money you make or the things you have.**
 - He cares about...
 - What is the condition of your heart as it relates to what you have? (**Acts 15**)
 - How do you handle what He has given you?
 - Is your desire more for your earthly well-being or your eternal well-being? (**Matt. 6**)
 - Are you ready in an instant to give to a need or do you need to consider your own needs first? (**Phil 2:3**)
 - Do you determine someone's 'worthiness' based on your perception of the person?
 - Jesus said, *'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'* (**Matt. 25:40**)
 - How much can He trust you?
 - *"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."* (**Luke 16:10**)
 - The concept of commerce and the exchange of currency for goods or service has been in place since the beginning of recorded history
 - Satan will use any means he can to separate us from God
 - The love of money (**I Tim. 6:10**) is the place that Christians fall
 - It is not the possession of money or goods in a person's life but the priority that it takes
 - Anything that is put ahead of God in our lives is idolatry

Next week:

- How do I know what God expects of me and what He has blessed me with?