

Assurance of Salvation
 Part 61

Self-Denial

&
 > and our use of MONEY! <
 (Part 1)

"Self-Denial"

and our use of
\$ Money \$

(Part 1)



OH NO!!!
Not that
topic!!



If you're a follower of Jesus,
it won't be too painful.

(Besides, if you're a "follower," you do want to "follow"!)

Our focus here
 is NOT: "Give
 more money to
 the church!"



(Though doing so may be a
 legitimate part of following Jesus.)

All people have a "#1" value:

- That value will be either: **God** or **Self**
- That value will influence:
 - All we do

Even our use of MONEY



↳ = Our focus today

Even our money?!

- **YES!** *And even when we're doing "good" things with it!*

Of all the "good" things we could use our money for,
OUR #1 VALUE
 will determine which we choose.



Even our ATTITUDE toward money is an issue!

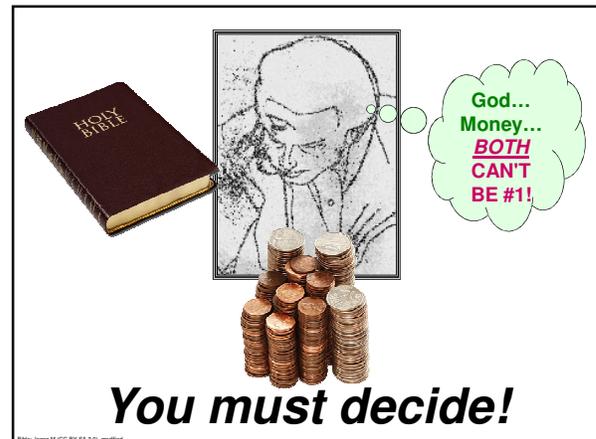
No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

You cannot serve God and money.

Matthew 6:24 (ESV)

Last week, we looked at some Scripture passages that remind us that we will answer to God for everything we think, say or do.

This would include our use of money.



"DEFINITION"

"MONEY" IS ...

NOT something to be wasted, but something you use to express your values.

– It is YOUR opportunity to prove what is most important to you.

– **The sad reality is this:**

- What most people prove isn't what they claim.
- Their actions contradict their words.

Consider this:

WHAT DO YOU OWE GOD?

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

Rev. 4:11 (NIV)

For by [Jesus] all things were created ... and in him all things hold together.

Col. 1:16-17 (NIV)

Consider this:

WHAT DOES GOD OWE YOU?

Who has a claim against me that I must pay?
Everything under heaven belongs to me.

Job 41:11 (NIV)

"Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?"

Romans 11:35 (NIV)

Consider this:

WHERE DID YOU AND YOUR POSSESSIONS COME FROM??

What do you have that you did not receive?
And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

1 Cor. 4:7b (NIV)

Everything we own or have, even our very beings – all of it comes from him!

CONCLUSION:

Money is just a small part of the whole issue!

YOU OWE GOD = 100% (or more)

GOD OWES YOU = 0% (or less)

It's as simple as that!



"But **MY** money is **MINE**, to do what **I** want with, when **I** please, and however **I** decide! And if **I** want to give some to God, **I** will!"

"Everyone shows his values, one way or another!"

"Money is one of those ways!"

"And **YOUR** values **STINK!**"

? Are we talking about

TITHING?

- "Tithing" refers to giving **10%** of all your money to God.
- In the Old Testament, we read about commands to do this.

A little "history lesson"

about giving God a tithe (1/10) of one's wealth

- Tithing was practiced before God gave the Law. (It wasn't a new concept.)
 - Genesis 14:20; 28:22
- In the Law, tithing was commanded to all the people of Israel.
 - This may have included different tithes for different purposes.
 - Leviticus 27:30-32; etc.

- An unwillingness to tithe resulted in loss of God's blessing. It was sin!

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food* in my Temple.

If you do," says the Lord Almighty, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in!

Try it! Let me prove it to you!

Malachi 3:10 (NLT)

* If the people obeyed this command:

- 1) the priests would not have to go hungry,
- and 2) God would bless the people abundantly!

A warning from Jesus

about giving God a tithe (1/10) of one's wealth

- Most Jews were unsaved. They may have practiced religious rituals (such as tithing), but their hearts were unchanged.
- Jesus warned them that they needed to practice the "more important things" of the Law, not just pay the tithe.
 - (He did not tell them to ignore the tithe, but to do what was right.)

Said Jesus...

"How terrible it will be for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites!

You give a tenth of your mint, dill, and cummin, **but have neglected** the more important matters of the Law: justice, mercy, and faithfulness.

These are the things you should have practiced, without neglecting the others.

Matthew 23:23 (ISV)

Do WE need to tithe TODAY?

- ***There is NO COMMAND to "tithe"*** given to the New Testament church.

But there does *not* have to be a command to "tithe"!

WHY no command?? Because:

GENUINE followers of Jesus are *not* like the Old Testament Jews!

- Most of the Jews were unsaved. They needed "**external**" commands to guide them.
- Followers of Jesus have God's Law embedded in their hearts. It has become "**internal**" to them.

I will put my laws *in their minds* and write them *on their hearts*.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

Hebrews 8:10b (ISV)

(= a quote from Jeremiah 31:33)

- **In the OLD Testament:** God told them it *will* happen. (= prophecy)
- **In the NEW Testament:** God tells us it *did* happen. (= fulfillment)

We also know that God's Law is summarized by the word "LOVE"

[JESUS] "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

[Religious LEADER] He answered: " '**Love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, '**Love your neighbor** as yourself.'"

[JESUS] "**You have answered correctly,**" Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

Luke 10:26-28 (NIV)

CONCLUSION

How could a follower of Jesus ***NOT want to love*** God and neighbor, and ***be generous?*** *

* (This generosity would include ***much more*** than just money!)

