

THE CHRISTIAN BUSINESS NETWORK

Practicing Christian Community in the Marketplace

P.O. Box 44071, Baltimore, MD 21236 / 1.888.777.0996

ChristianBusinessNetwork.com

A Biblical Perspective on Worldly Wealth (Luke 16:1-15)

Observations:

1. Solomon instructs us in Ecclesiastes: (1:2-3)
 - Holman Bible - "Absolute futility," says the Teacher. "Absolute futility. Everything is futile. What does a man gain for all his efforts he labors at under the sun?"
 - NIV - "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless. What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun?"
2. A Biblical Worldview teaches us that **God is the Only True Source of Any True Relevance!**
3. A Biblical Worldview teaches us that **God's Word is the Most Tangible Source** of wisdom and truth and knowledge and counsel that we as Christian business people have at our disposal.
 - **2 Tim. 3:16-17** - *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
 - **Psalm 19:7-11** - *The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.*
4. Historically, the Church has been remiss at equipping God's people who work in the marketplace to understand and embrace the supreme value of God's Word as our primary source of wisdom and truth and knowledge and counsel in our pursuit of lasting success.
5. In our 21st century business culture, **THE MOST IMPORTANT THING** is the acquisition and the accumulation of wealth.
6. In our 21st century financial culture, we run the risk of placing our hard-earned savings into the hands of "financial advisors and investors" who are more concerned about earning commissions for themselves than about generating a return on investment for their clients.
7. Many, many business and financial professionals bow their knee to serve **MONEY** and **EARTHLY WEALTH**. Honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness are secondary to greed, selfishness and personal gain.

How about you? As a Christian Business Person ...

1. What is THE MOST IMPORTANT THING to you?
2. How truly relevant are God and His Word to you throughout the average workday?
3. To whom do you view yourself as temporally and ultimately accountable?
4. Are you prepared at this very moment to give an account of your stewardship?
5. To what or to whom do you “bow the knee” in service on a daily basis?
6. How truly important are honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness to you?
7. Do greed, selfishness and personal gain ever factor into how you price your products and services or how you charge your clients?

Luke 16:1-15

Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’ The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg — I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’ So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ‘Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.’ Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ ‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied. He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’ The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light.”

“I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. 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. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? No servant can serve two masters. 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 both God and Money.” The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God’s sight.”

One Imperative: Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves.

Two Axioms: (1) Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and (2) whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

Two Questions: (1) If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? (2) If you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

Two Axioms: (1) No servant can serve two masters. (2) You cannot serve both God and Money.

One Values Statement: What is highly valued among men is detestable in God’s sight.