

# *Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship*

*Every word inspired.*



*Every word proclaimed.*

***“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28***

# ***“The Dark Side of Money”***

***Eccl. 5:8-17***

May 31, 2020

The best things in life are free  
But you can give them to the birds and bees  
I want money  
That's what I want  
That's what I want  
That's what I want

Your love is such a thrill  
But your love won't pay my bills  
I want money  
That's what I want  
That's what I want  
That's what I want

Money don't get everything it's true  
What it don't get, I can't use  
I want money  
That's what I want  
That's what I want  
That's what I want

I want money  
I want lots of money  
In fact, I want so much money  
Give me your money  
Just give me money

## ***The subject of money in the Bible -***

- 16 out of 38 of Christ's parables deal with money.
- More is said in the New Testament about money than heaven and hell combined.
- 5 times more is said about money than prayer.
- There are 500+ verses on both prayer and faith vs. over 2,000 verses dealing with money and possessions.

## **Ecc1 5:8-20**

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## ***7 ways the love of money leads to darkness:***

17 Throughout his life he also eats in darkness with great vexation, sickness and anger.

### **1. The more we have, the more we oppress. (5:8,9)**

***If you see oppression of the poor and denial of justice and righteousness in the province, do not be shocked at the sight;***

- Man is fundamentally evil and has a sin nature, inherited from Adam, and this sinful disposition governs the thoughts, will, and actions. That means that whenever a man is presented with the opportunity to make a buck, he will naturally exploit others and thereby deny them justice and righteousness.
- This is the way the world operates and it never changes. ***The people with power rip off the powerless.*** This is life under the sun.
- The rich and powerful often oppress the poor, because the poor cannot afford to defend themselves. They have no way to fight injustice.
- To be shocked at this is to have an overly optimistic view of mankind.

***“for one official watches over another official, and there are higher officials over them.”***

**“watches over”** - שומר - shawmar – to guard, to protect, to make a hedge around.

### **Hierarchy of corruption -**

- The King protects the nobles
- The nobles protects the merchants
- The merchants oppress the peasants
- God knew when He instituted human government and the first judicial system after the flood (the right to take human life), it would be managed by corrupt people.

# Government

God has created 3 Divine Institutions for all mankind:

1. **Family** - To teach children what civilly is right and wrong and to pass it on from generation to generation.
  2. **Government** – to maintain law and order in society. Must know right and wrong based on moral law. To protect the innocent and those who do good. To punish those who do evil.
  3. **Israel ➡ Church** - To teach spiritual truth and pass it on from generation to generation.
- In order for these institutions to function properly, God also established within each institution these features:
    - Authority
    - Submission
    - Liberty
    - Morality and Justice
    - Security
    - Economics



# **What is to be the believer's response to Government?**

1. Submit to those in authority. (Rom. 13:1-5; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 1:13,17)
2. Pay your taxes. (Matt. 22:17-21; Rom. 13:6,7)
3. Pray for those in authority. (1 Tim. 2:1,2)

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- God knew when He instituted human government and the first judicial system after the flood (the right to take human life), it would be managed by corrupt people. So why did He do it? He did so in order to curb sin and slow the corruption of society.
- It is better to have an imperfect judicial system than not one at all.
- The opposite of government, even tyrannical government led by a madman, is anarchy and chaos.

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***“After all, a king who cultivates the field is an advantage to the land.”***

“the profit of the earth is for all; the king himself is served by the field” (KJV)

“this is an advantage for a land: a king for a plowed field” (NRSV);

“the greatest advantage in all the land is his: he controls a field that is cultivated” (NJPS)

“a country prospers with a king who has control” (Moffatt)

“a king devoted to the field is an advantage to the land” (MLB)

“the increase from the land is taken by all; the king himself profits from the fields” (NIV)

“a king is an advantage to a land with cultivated fields” (RSV)

“the best thing for a country is a king whose own lands are well tilled” (NEB)

“an advantage for a country in every respect is a king for the arable land” (NAB)

“And over them all is the king. Oh, for a king who is devoted to his country! Only he can bring order from this chaos.” (TLB)

הִיא<sup>Q</sup> בְּכָל־      אֶרֶץ      וַיִּתְּרוֹן  
himself      for all:      is      the earth      Moreover the profit of

נֶעֱבָד:      לְשָׂדֶה      מֶלֶךְ  
is served      by the field.      the king

9 The produce of the land is taken by all of them,  
the king himself is served by the fields. (djt)

## ***Interpretation -***

- The profit that came from his land was collected by officials at every level of the government, and the king got his portion of the profit from every cultivated field in the whole land.
- The more profit a person made, the more of it he had to pay to officials through taxation.
- Their motive was not to protect the poor and oppressed but to find ways to squeeze revenue out of them. The poor pay exorbitant taxes and the money filters upward as each official takes his cut. And the king gets the biggest cut.
- Look at the Roman tax collection system.
- At the head of this whole corrupt system was the king who himself profited from the fields of the oppressed.
- Solomon is discussing the corrupt practices of government officials that distort justice in order to line their pockets. He is decrying the fact that the poor and common man lose the fruits of their labor because of this injustice.
- Money buys power.

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## **2. The more we have, the more we want. (5:10)**

- Solomon is not warning against having money. Everyone needs money to live in this world. He is warning against the love of money.
- Think of how many times the Scriptures warn against the dangers of money vs how many times they warn against the dangers of being poor. There is not one warning against being poor.
- “He who has no money is poor; he who has nothing but money is even poorer.”
- Loving money is a narcotic—the more you have, the more you want.
- Someone on Wall Street was quoted as saying, “You don't get rich in this business; you just attain new levels of relative poverty.”
- We look at our wealth and complain of our poverty.

### **Luke 12:15**

15 Then He said to them, “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.”

- We are trying to find satisfaction in life in a place that satisfaction cannot be found.
- So the reason money will not make you happy is because it is contrary to how you were made. So if you're greedy, you're malfunctioning.
- Here is the bad news: Everyone gets robbed of their wealth. Death will take it.



“I have concluded that the accumulation of wealth, even if I could achieve it is an insufficient reason for living. When I reach the end of my days, a moment or two from now, I must look backward on something more meaningful than the pursuit of houses and land and machines and stocks and bonds. Nor is fame of any lasting benefit. I will consider my earthly existence to have been wasted unless I can recall a loving family, a consistent investment in the lives of people and an earnest attempt to serve the God who made me. Nothing else makes much sense.”

- James Dobson

“Money never made a man happy yet, nor will it. There is nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more a man has, the more he wants. Instead of its filling a vacuum, it makes one. If it satisfies one want, it doubles and trebles that want another way. That was a true proverb of the wise man. Rely upon it. Better is little with a fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith.”

- Benjamin Franklin

“Too many people spend money they haven’t earned, to buy things they don’t want, to impress people they don’t like.”

- Will Rogers

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### **3. The more we have, the more we spend (5:11).**

- When you come into money, suddenly people begin to surround you and consume the money. People start coming out of the closet and the woodwork from everywhere.
- “The more loot you get, the more looters show up.”
- It takes a lot of people to manage wealth, business, and property. There are bankers, brokers, financial consultants, lawyers, tax consultants, accountants, household employees, bodyguards, and sponging relatives.
- People can’t take care of their wealth all by themselves. They are dependent upon others. What is ironic is that more money means more workers to help make, distribute, and protect their money.
- If you have money you are expected to foot the bill for food, entertainment, etc. for friends and relatives.
- And besides all of that, the IRS is at their door deciding that they owe the government more money.
- All they can do is watch all that they earn get eaten up and spent.
- There is no satisfaction in making a ton of money since all they get to see is everyone else consume it.

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#### **4. The more we have, the more we worry. (5:12)**

- The comparison here is between a common working man and a rich man and what kind of sleep they get.
- The **rich** man has greater worries and less **sleep**. The **working** man has less worries and more **sleep**.
- Ditch diggers sleep better than the ditch owners.
- After a while the wealthy owner may wonder what advantage he has over his workmen. They can go to bed at night and sleep soundly, because they did their work and do not have to carry home with them the problems of the day.
- The employee who runs the computer system for his owner is sleeping just fine.
- The primary reason people in our culture cannot sleep is tension. And the primary cause for tension is worry over money. They can't sleep. They toss and turn, adjust the pillow, lie awake staring into space worrying about - "What is the stock market doing," "How is the economy affecting sales," "How can I keep good people and get rid of those who I do not want?" "What about OSHA, the IRS, and government regulations?"
- This man eats, sleeps and drinks his work. This is why he doesn't eat right, sleep right or drink right.
- It is good to have the things that money can buy, provided you don't lose the things that money can't buy.

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**5. The more we have, the more we hoard and lose (5:13,14).**

- Here is a man that is hoarding wealth.
- He is a part of the “hoarders.”
- Piling it up! Packing it away!
- **“Everything you own means that much more trouble for you.”**  
- A Chinese Proverb
- **“The amount of a man’s wealth consists in the number of things he can do without. “**  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson
- We show what we love by what we do with what we have.
- **John D. Rockefeller**
- But it is going to hurt him badly.

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- “. . . to his hurt when . . .”
- There are a lot of unpredictable things that can happen financially. You can be sued, you can be robbed, an investment can go sour, a business venture can go south.
- Something like this happened here, and poof, the fortune he was hoarding was gone.
- He had fathered a son and there was nothing to support him, and there was no inheritance to give him.
- So all those years of hard labor and storing up and in the end there was nothing to give his son.
- So it's going to hurt this man and the hurt is the mental anguish and depression that will result.
- We are all very vulnerable. We are just one illness, accident, or bad decision away from losing it all.
- Can this happen? Look at Job. Look at pro athletes.