

The Final Word on Wealth

Pastor Guy Gray

What is the final word on wealth? There are plenty of books about wealth. There are all sorts of advisors and programs that are focused on wealth acquisition or wealth management. There are loads of stories about people who struck it rich, or others who lost it all. We've all heard of wealthy people who aren't very happy—recently a major lottery winner committed suicide when his wife left him. And chances are you know some relatively poor people who seem remarkably happy—have you been to our village in El Salvador? So what are we to think? What are we to do—about wealth?

What does God want for us? Are we to seek wealth or to spurn it? Does God want us to be wealthy? Does God want us to give up wealth so we can live for a higher purpose? The Bible has a lot to say about wealth and sometimes the message seems contradictory. We see God blessing people with wealth many times in the Bible. So does that mean that God wants His people to be prosperous in a material sense? Many Bible teachers teach from this perspective. In the Gospels, we see Jesus calling people to give up their wealth so that they might follow Him—the story of the rich young ruler). Does that mean that wealth is to be avoided because it is an obstacle to really following Christ? There are many Bible teachers who take this approach as well. This can be confusing! Recently there was even a major secular news magazine that carried a cover story on the contradictory Christian teachings about wealth. So what are we to think? What is the final word on wealth?

For several weeks at River West Church we are going to be exploring this important issue—and it IS important! It is important because the connection between our spiritual life and the real world of practical living will always be found in the area of our money and possessions, our material wealth (or lack thereof!) It is important because Jesus did indeed have so much to say about this subject. It is important because it is impossible to truly grow strong and healthy in our faith in Jesus without it impacting our attitude and actions in the realm of our wealth.

This final word on wealth is not what you might expect. The final word on wealth is found in Matthew 25:23—in the King James Version, because it sounds so awesome that way!

“His Lord said unto him, well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

Please listen closely to God's Word and God's heart as we consider God's thoughts on wealth for several Sunday's. Listen—then pray and listen some more. Let the Spirit of Christ guide you into the life of freedom, identity and purpose that He has designed for you. As we will see, our life in Christ will always have a huge connection to the real, practical world of material possessions, finances and wealth.

May the Lord bless you with every good thing as you love, trust, follow and serve Him. May we, together, change the world for Christ!

TODAY

El Salvador Trip
Information Meeting
7:15pm @ Lake Grove

Jr. High Movie Night
5:00pm @ Todd & Mary
Halvorson's Home
See Josh for Details

SATURDAY 05/26

Family Fellowship
Day at the Park
See Lindsie for Details

SUNDAY 05/27

No JRH Youth Group

El Salvador Trip
Applications Due

SUNDAY 06/03

Introducing River West
12:30pm @ Guy &
Maureen Gray's Home

SATURDAY 06/09

5th-7th Grade Summer
Party! 1:00pm @ Doug &
Lianne Anderson's Home

8th - 12th Grade Summer
Party! 6:00pm @ Doug &
Gretchen Tarpley's Home
See Josh for Details

SUNDAY 06/10

Sunday School Move up
Day