



COMMUNITY CHAPEL

AT AMES CREEK

Sweet Home • Oregon • 541-367-5106 • www.communitychapel.net

Sermon Notes

August 14th, 2005 • Pastor Mark McCartin

My friend complains: "Churches are just after your money."

1 Tim 6:5

"...men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain."

1 Tim 6:6

"But godliness with contentment is great gain."

1 Tim 4:8

"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

Three reasons for not making the pursuit of riches your life goal:

1) "We brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it."
(1 Tim 6:7)

Rev 3:14,17

"To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ... 17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked."

2) "But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that." (1 Tim 6:8)

Simplicity is possible and desirable for three reasons:

a) When God is near you and for you, you don't need "extra" things to give you peace.

Heb 13:5-6

"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?'"

b) The deepest and most satisfying delights God gives us through creation are the free gifts of Nature and loving relationships.

After our basic needs are met, accumulated wealth begins to diminish our capacity for these pleasures rather than increase them. Buying things contributes absolutely nothing to the hearts capacity for joy.

c) A simplified life style would allow us to invest our extra resources on things that will count for eternity.

3) 1 Tim 6:9-10

"People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

How are churches supposed to be financed?

A) Freewill offerings

Ex 35:5-6

"Everyone who is willing is to bring to the LORD an offering of gold, silver and bronze..."

B) Tithing by God's people

1 Cor 9:13-14

"Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel."

Mal 3:8-11

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse-the whole nation of you-because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

2 Cor 9:7

"...God loves a cheerful giver."

Matt 6:19-21

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."