

Welcome Visitors,

First, THANK YOU! We are excited to know that you are interested in worshipping God. We want you to feel very welcomed here among our group. Our goal is doing God's will. You will find that our teaching and preaching are strictly from the Bible so we encourage you to open a Bible and follow along as the lessons are presented today.

God's word is the complete guide for our life of service and worship. The all-sufficient word of God—the Bible is what we need (John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We desire to help one another in doing God's will. If you are interested in learning more please ask one of our members today.

Main Street Church of Christ Newbern, Tennessee

Schedule Of Services:

Lord's Day:	9:45 a.m.	Bible Study (All ages)
	10:20 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
Wednesday:	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study

Our Elders:

**Johnie Dodds
Harry Elliott
Austin Willis**

Our Deacons:

**Danny Carpenter
Wayne Hulme
Tommy Sawyers**

Our Preacher: **T. Sean Sullivan**

The Gospel Plan

HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16

BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6

REPENT—CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9

OPENLY CONFESS—JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37

BE BAPTIZED—FOR REMISSION OF YOUR SINS

Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21

LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39 I Peter 1:6-9

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The Main Street Church of Christ

Messenger

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

Faith: In a Material World

Introduction:

Money is a sensitive subject. It is reactive and emotional. Why should we have a lesson about money? The same reason that there is training for the use of explosives. When in control explosives are perfectly safe; when out of control they are deadly. Money is a powerful tool. When in control money can be a great tool; when out of control money can destroy you.

We live at a time of material abundance. There are many who are caught in the swell. The greatest problem with money is when it replaces God in our hearts. Since, it is nearly impossible to function in this world without money we need to understand its role.

In our article we are going to consider these thoughts: First, there is something more valuable than money; second, the danger of money. Then we are going to consider the question, "Faith or Money: Do I have to choose?"

More Valuable than Money

Could you exist with a complete material loss? We have become very concerned about the comforts of living in our modern day. It is thought to be a shocking decision to not have a television—some think they are deprived of life if they don't have HDTV. The creature comforts of our day have become very valuable to us, perhaps to the point that they are the most important.

How do we get our "heads on straight" about the true value of things? We need to understand the difference between

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“temporary” and “eternal”. The easiest way to define those things that are temporary is this: everything that you can see, touch, taste, smell, or hear is temporary. Everything that can be stolen, eaten by moths, or rust is temporary (Matthew 6:19)

On the other hand, the eternal are those things beyond our sensory perceptions (Colossians 3:1-4)—the things in and of Heaven (Matthew 6:20-21).

The man from Uz teaches us about the truly valuable. Job was *“the greatest of all the people of the East”* (Job 1:1-3). Satan took note of Job and challenged his faithfulness to God (Job 1:6-12). When he was give permission, Satan took it all away (Job 1:13-20). Satan was hoping to prove Job was all about the money. Job proved him wrong as he responded with contentment (Job 1:21). Now frustrated, Satan was not satisfied and wanted a further test and when permitted Satan took away Job’s health (Job 2:1-8). Hoping that this most personal attack would sway Job’s faith; again Job responded with contentment (Job 2:10). Job lived a great demonstration of 1 Timothy 6:6—godliness and contentment.

The Danger of Money

We know that money has corrupted us when we would do anything to get it. When we will steal to have it—before Judas betrayed Jesus to the Jewish authorities, he betrayed His trust by stealing from His treasury (John 12:3-6). We have been corrupted when we will betray others to have it—this same Judas sold Jesus to His enemies for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16). We have been corrupted when we will deceive others to have it—lying for material wealth (Acts 5:1-11)

We know money has become too important: when it becomes our identity (Luke 12:15); when money becomes our faith—our fortress, our protector—in place of God (1 Timothy 6:17); when it steals our time away from greater commitments. Some have pursued money to the point of failing to providing for their family’s true needs (Ephesians 6:1-3; 1 Timothy 5:8). Some choose the pursuit of money over the need of worshipping and serving God (Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 10:24-25). Some are determined to keep their money; not using it to meet the responsibilities that come with having money (1 Timothy 6:18-19).

The Question: Faith or Money—do we have to choose?

It is clear from the scriptures that some people can have both: money and faith. For example: Joseph of Arimathea was a rich man who was a disciple of Christ (Matthew 27:57). He was

rich enough to have a new tomb carved out—something unusually for average fare—he however is also described as a disciple. The Centurion in Capernaum was rich and Jesus declared his faith (Luke 7:1-10). He was wealthy enough to have built a synagogue for the people—Jesus declared that he was a man of great faith. Barnabas possessed enough to sell some and be benevolent (Acts 4:36-37). From their surplus many sold to provide for their brethren, among this group is Barnabas. Lydia was a seller of purple and became a Christian (Acts 16:14-15). She hosted the local congregation in her house (Acts 16:40).

We can also safely conclude from the scripture that some may have to choose between faith and money because they have let things get out of control. When we examine 1 Timothy 6:6-10 we learn: To have God is the most important (v. 6); nothing temporary is of true value (v.7); the essentials for living are much simpler than some have assumed (v.8); the desire for material wealth comes with a warning (vs. 9-10). We are warned of the possibility of spiritual corruption: temptations, snares, foolish and harmful lusts. We are told that others have been overtaken by greed and have left the faith—these warnings are not to be taken lightly. Those who cannot control their greed must choose faith, or be lost (Matthew 13:7, 22). Those who put more faith in their money than in God must change their way (1 Timothy 6:17).

Conclusion:

Money is a sensitive subject; it is reactive and emotional. We need to remember the importance of faith as we live in a world that seems consumed with the material side of life. Faith must not be set aside for the pursuit of money.

It would be great to report that we live at a time of spiritual abundance. It is pretty clear, out there, the opposite it true, since most serve money rather than our Maker. You can do better than most. There is no material wealth to be compared to a soul’s salvation; will you be saved today? The opportunity to obey the gospel and prepare yourself for the riches of God’s glory is now. ~tss
