

MONEY ISN'T EVERYTHING

By Keith Greer

“But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” {1 Timothy 6:9,10} Unfortunately, many in the world (and some in the church) have not learned the truth revealed in our text. What should we value in our lives? Allow me to suggest some things that are **MORE** valuable than money:

God’s Word. *“The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.” {Psalm 19:9,10}* One of the constant themes of Psalm 119 is the value of God’s word. Why is God’s word so valuable? *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” {Romans 1:16}* *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” {Hebrews 4:12}*

A Good Name. *“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.” {Proverbs 22:1}* *“The memory of the righteous is blessed, But the name of the wicked will rot.” {Proverbs 10:7}* A person spends a lifetime striving to make a good name for himself. Yet, a few minutes and some poor choices can destroy that name. And sometimes, another person, by slander and lies, can maliciously ruin one’s reputation. Each person needs to be painfully aware that the choices made in this life can have lasting consequences concerning how they can affect my character. Foolish choices and half thought out decisions can ruin years of establishing one’s good name.

Spiritual Blessings are in Christ. *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” {Ephesians 1:3}* We have forgiveness of sins and redemption {Ephesians 1:7}. Christ’s blood saves us {1 Peter 1:18-20}. We can know that our names are written in heaven {Philippians 4:3}. Every spiritual blessing that a child of God possesses is available for him to find and enjoy in Christ. An avenue of prayer that we can call upon our God in time of need, Hebrews 4:16. The promise of eternal salvation to be in the presence of God, with all the saved of all ages, in God’s eternal home if we will do His will here. No amount of money can buy those spiritual blessings we have in Christ!

Personal Service. *“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” {Galatians 6:1,2}* A person does not become great because of his work or words, but by being a humble servant who seeks to serve others first. We weep and rejoice with one another {Romans 12:15}. We genuinely love one another {1 Peter 1:22}. Consider the example the Lord set forth in the parable of the Good Samaritan {Luke 10:30-37}. A long, long time ago Cain asked a very important question about being his “brother’s keeper,” Genesis 4:9. The truth is, that is exactly what God purposes us to be in our special relationship in Christ.

Prayers of the Faithful. *“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” {James 5:16}* Many times I’m moved to tears when one of my brothers, while leading a prayer, mentions my work and his appreciation for my efforts. When I’m sick or weak, knowing others are praying to God for me brings great comfort and strength. Do you include others in your personal prayers?

We could add many other things to this short list. We all need sufficient money to live and provide for our families. But money certainly isn’t the answer to every problem. Money can buy some things but there are things it cannot buy. We need to properly evaluate our priorities! ***