

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the word of life" (Phil. 2:16).

January 15, 2013

Issue No. 77 Mark Aites, Editor

Money

"Money is the barometer of a society's virtue." - Ayn Rand

"I think everything depends on money." - Alan Bean

"Too many people spend money they earned...to buy things they don't want...to impress people they don't like." - Will Rogers

"Money and success don't change people; they merely amplify what is already there." - Will Smith

Money is one of those things that you can't live without. All of us use it to purchase things as it is essential to our survival. And yes, some have more than others to which grumbling voices echo their unhappiness.

The Bible does not condemn the ownership of money. But what it does condemn is the attitude people have toward it. The apostle Paul made this clear in his first letter to Timothy: "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 Tim. 6:9-10).

Obviously money can be quite a source of temptation for any one of us. Marriages are strained because of it, and the desire for possessions seems to overwhelm far too many. One gets to the point where he feels strong feelings against money for what it has done to so many lives; and yet money in and of itself is not evil.

All of us know of folks that have been enraptured by it. Scripture gives us the story of the rich ruler who asked our Lord what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. "So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, 'You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.' But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich" (Luke 18:22-23). Jesus proceeded then to speak of how hard it is for those in love with riches to attain heaven.

One realizes that many people believe that money is the panacea for every ill in society. There are long lines of people anxious to buy lottery tickets hoping to be plunged into record wealth, believing that with it they will find utopia. Such desire is an illusion, for how do they explain such a high level of suicides among the rich?

It is vital that we keep control of how we use and view money. The danger with the wrong view can lead to disaster.