

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: I Corinthians 16:1-2 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”

Quote: “All through Scripture there is an intimate (relationship) between the development of a man's character and how he handles his money.” R.C. Halverson

Paul taught that each Sunday believers should set aside an offering to meet the needs of fellow believers for God's glory. It should be set aside privately and prayerfully so that it was not done to “show off” before others. *Each gift should reflect the Lord's blessing upon that particular giver and their gratitude in response to His unearned, unmerited favor in their lives.* Jesus taught this same principle. “Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty *put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.*’”¹ This widow clearly gave the Kingdom of God and His righteousness top priority in her life. Her act of devotion and display of dependence upon God for her needs is a rebuke to most of us.

In Matthew 6, Christ taught the priority of investing in the eternal over focusing upon the temporal. “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*”² Jesus went on to teach, that “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not

worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. *Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?*” After talking about the faithfulness of God to meet the needs of His creatures, Jesus again said, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. *For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.* But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”²

As for those who have been blessed with a great deal, Paul told Timothy to “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in *uncertain riches* but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, *ready to give, willing to share,* storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”³ Laying hold on eternal life has nothing to do with earning salvation. “Paul is admonishing Timothy to ‘get a grip’ on the reality of the matters associated with eternal life, so that he would live and minister with a heavenly and eternal perspective.”⁴ Those who invest in the work of the Lord will reap eternal dividends!

God's A Honor Roll, Abundance

No matter what their financial status, believers are to be content with God's wise provision and to give as they can to meet the needs of others.⁵ The sin of selfishness tempts people, no matter how “well off” they are, to be driven by the greed to get more instead of the grace to give more. Although he lived in the “lap of luxury” and had the best that money could buy, Solomon observed that “There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.”⁶ You cannot buy happiness, but you can display holiness by humbly, privately investing in Christ's kingdom work!

1 Mark 12:41-44 2 Matt.6:19-21, 31-34 3 I Tim.6:17-19 4 MSB 5 Phil.4:11-12 6 Prov.13:7 Also see Prov.30:7-9 written by Agur