The God Of Money

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday January 28th, 2018

Text: Col. 3:5; Mt. 6:24

### Intro

1. Idolatry is a major theme in the Scriptures – God warned His people not to follow after false gods! (Over 30 Pagan/false gods mentioned in the Scriptures)
2. Material images are not necessary for one to practice idolatry.
   1. Col. 3:5: While some may not actually serve idols, there are things in our lives that can “amount to idolatry.”
   2. Anything competing in our hearts with God when it comes to our trust, dependence, affection & love – Mt. 6:24 (Lk. 16:13); *Mk. 10:21-26:* Rich ruler chose his wealth over Jesus!
      1. “Evil desire, greed,” and “wealth” can become our gods!
3. Money is portrayed as God’s chief competition!
   1. Lk. 12:15 (12:13-15): “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.”
      1. It was from this warning Jesus told them the parable of “The Rich Fool” (12:16-21)
      2. I Tim. 6:10: The love of money causes ruin and amounts to idolatry!
   2. Lk. 16:13: Cannot serve God and wealth (NAS)/mammon (KJV)
      1. Mammon (KJV): The Aramaic word for riches, personified by Jesus as a false god (NAS: “wealth”).
   3. For those who pursue the love of money, money takes on divine attributes!
4. Many people fall down at the feet of the god of money (wealth), whether they know it or not, and they need to turn from their idolatry!

#### The God of Money (Mt. 6:24) Promises:

* 1. Security:
     1. Prov. 30:8-9: The god of Money convinces us that we need nothing else but more money. “Who is the Lord?”
     2. Mt. 6:19; Lk. 12:33: Riches on earth are not secure! Can rust, be destroyed, and can be stolen.
     3. I Tim. 6:17: Some fix their hope (trust) in riches, which are uncertain! (Stock market crashes, economic down-turns, etc.)
  2. Satisfaction:
     1. Lk. 12:18-19: The rich fool thought if he only had more he would be satisfied!
     2. Eccl. 5:10: Those who love money and are always thinking of how to get it will never be satisfied. They will always need more (Lk. 12:16-21; esp. 18-19)!
  3. Significance:
     1. Lk. 12:18-19: The rich fool was successful in the eyes of the world and thought much about his worth and was planning to take his ease! He cared about the amount of his wealth and God pointed out that it was vanity – Lk. 12:20
     2. Mt. 19:16-25 (Mk. 10:21-26; Lk. 18:23-26): The apostles even thought the ruler’s riches made him great, and marveled, “Who then can be saved?”
     3. Old saying, “He who dies with the most toys wins!”
     4. Js. 2:1-4: Even saints sometimes fall for the promise of significance and show preference to those who are wealthy!
     5. Our currency says, “In God We Trust” – ironic since most people only worship the god of money!
     6. So many people fall for the lie that the god of Money can do more than what God can do! (Mt. 6:33)
  4. Many people fall for the false promises of riches and choose money over God!

#### The God of Money (Mt. 6:24) Delivers:

* 1. Emptiness:
     1. Lk. 12:15: *“Even* when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions”
     2. Lk. 12:16-21: Life is not about money, or accumulating wealth!
     3. “But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God” (Lk. 12:20-21).
  2. Destruction:
     1. I Tim. 6:9-10: For the pursuit of money many people, even saints, have brought their lives and families to ruin and destruction!
     2. Acts 5:1-11: Ananias and Sapphira loved money and the praise of men so much they lost their lives because they lied to the Holy Spirit!
     3. Many families are brought to divorce and ruin because of financial problems.
     4. Some people spend their fortunes in the pursuit of money and ruin their lives!
  3. While the pursuit of the god of Money makes many alluring promises, it will deliver emptiness and destruction!

#### How to Overcome the god of Money

* 1. Many people look to the god of Money to provide things that only God can do: security, satisfaction and significance.
  2. The god of Money will only provide emptiness and destruction!
  3. Be more content:
     1. Phil. 4:12-13: Paul learned (takes practice) to be content! He recognized the strength to overcome comes through Christ!
     2. Heb. 13:5: Christ has promised to be with us (Mt. 6:33) so we ought to be content with what we have!
  4. Be more generous:
     1. Acts 20:35: Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
     2. The god of Money says, “You are the owner. Do whatever you want to do!”
     3. Jesus says, “You are a Steward. Use what you are blessed with to help others!”
     4. Lk. 12:33: Jesus said to work on your “unfailing treasure” in Heaven!
     5. I Tim. 6:17-18: Paul said to Timothy to instruct the rich of this world to use their wealth to help and to share and be generous! (Acts 20:35)
  5. Get more perspective:
     1. Hebrews 10:34: Our riches and properties can be taken away, but nothing can take away our spiritual blessings and eternal home!
     2. Job 1:21: We brought nothing with us into life and we take nothing out! (Lk. 12:20)
  6. Seek after the Kingdom of Christ and His righteousness:
     1. Mt. 6:33 (Lk. 12:31-34): Don’t look to money to do what can God can do!
     2. God blesses and we ought to use it for His glory, and seek after the treasure that never fades away and is reserved in Heaven for us! (I Pet. 1:3-4)
  7. Only in Jesus can we truly be secured, satisfied, and significant (made a child of God!), and enjoy the blessings of God for all eternity!

## Conclusion

1. People today can be just as guilty as the “Rich Fool” *(Lk. 12:16-21) – Col. 3:5*
   1. If not to God, our love, service, manner of life, what we seek after and worship will be to other things, and we will stand condemned *(Jer. 8:2; Rom. 6:16; Phil. 3:18-19).*
2. Don’t be fooled into following after the god of Money!
3. Let us devote to God that which belongs to Him alone – Mk. 12:30:
   1. Our love, heart, soul, mind and strength!
4. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
5. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!