



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

In The Almighty Dollar We Trust

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic
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"In God we trust" is a text written at the back of a US dollar; it is a statement we sometimes fail to practice. Our consumerism lifestyle leads us to greed and covetousness. We have to be careful not to fall into the trap where money becomes our idol (1 Tim 6:6-10). As Christians, we need to put all our trust in God, be contented in His grace, and obedient to his words.

Our Lord Jesus Christ shares a parable in Luke 12: 13-21, (The parable of the Rich Fool), where He denounces covetousness, and teaches us two important lessons:

1. **Prosperity comes from God** (Prov. 10:22). God gives the rich man nature's blessings of fertile land and abundant harvest. Similarly, God gives us the skills and talents to prosper (Deut. 8:18). God gives us health and strength to strive for daily living. He gives us knowledge and wisdom to be successful without disregard for His will.
2. **Acknowledge God in all blessings.** The rich man enjoys God's blessings. However, his ungratefulness leads him to forget two things: God and the poor.

2.1 When blessed with abundance, share with the less fortunate. 1 John 3:17 reads, "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need, but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?"

2.2 Be grateful and seek God's guidance. God owns everything including our life (Jas 4:13-15). In the parable, the rich man plans all his future years towards his enjoyment, while excluding God. He plans and acts as if God is not there. God calls him a fool like the fool in Ps. 14 that says, "there is no God". As Christians, we in our humanity, often look for relaxation and leisure in life as final goals, but our ultimate goal is to

be with God and his word. If the Lord lives in us, then we will be content (Gal 2:20).

How can we be rich towards God?

1. **Be saved.** Our money cannot buy heaven". In Luke 9:25 Jesus said, "What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit himself?"
2. **Be an evangelist to win souls.** "Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, will be like the stars forever" (Dan. 12:3). Our duty as Christians is to proclaim the good news of Christ and to witness for God.
3. **Be faithful.** St. Paul has affirmed his place in heaven among others; he fought his way to it (2 Tim 4:7). He advises us to work for our salvation with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12).
4. **Be an investor in God's work.** We are heirs of the Kingdom of God and Jesus asks to lay our treasure there (Lk 12:33-34). Let us invest our time and money in God's work. Give Him back what He has given us (Mal 3); give to the poor and blessings will return to us a hundred-fold. Our God is the best life insurance; it is free and its benefits are eternal.

Conclusion: Let us be on our guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist of an abundance of possessions. Our Lord Jesus Christ gives us a sobering reminder that life's success doesn't equate with material riches after all; instead, it is a life fully dependent on God.

Reflection:

1. How do you appreciate and acknowledge God's blessings? Do you claim these blessing as due to your own efforts?
2. How are you working for your treasures in heaven? How much of your blessings are you sharing with the poor, and with God as tithes?

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