

Purpose and Benefits of Money



Essential Food • Clothing • Shelter . .
. Transportation . . . Education . . .
Health Care * . . . Bless Others . . . Pay off
Mortgage Should have already paid off auto and credit cards . . . Entertainment . . .
Retirement . . . Financial Security • Investments . . . Name Brands . . . Insurance . . .
* Normally can be significantly decreased with exercise!

The four major uses of money are: Needs • Luxuries • Security and Impressions. Many in America, who could be blessed by the thick blanket of financial grace surrounding us, are cursed by discarding this protection and covering and often burying themselves with a heavy, oppressive, burden of debt – not to purchase necessities, but to buy expensive indulgences they then have neither the time to enjoy nor the money to maintain. It is easy NOT to be blessed by grace for ultimately we are only blessed when we recognize and appreciate it – when, on the other hand, we complain about we want, instead of being thankful for what we have, grace is of no avail.

This insatiable drive for money and “things” (beyond reasonable essentials) is simply a striving for happiness that ONLY thankfulness will provide – a person/couple/family, in America, properly controlling \$30,000 - \$40,000 a year WILL BE far happier than those making hundreds of thousands, even millions, wanting more; borrowing to buy what they, otherwise, cannot have NOW – in short, those enslaved by the passion of seeking happiness in things.

When people are unnecessarily “on the edge,” blessings can become curses – for example, homes too large to pay for and maintain consume too much time and money while stealing from other areas of greater benefit (spending time with family, proper rest, etc). While the lack of money, for basic needs, causes insecurity, the logical opposite is not true – no amount of money offers much security – consider health and death!

The *Bible* (even for someone that does not believe in God) is the best book on finances ever written; and if you do believe it certainly should be the major teacher on this important day-to-day subject. Who could deny:

The rich rule over the poor,
and the borrower is servant to the lender. Pr 22:7

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?” Mt 16:24 - 26

“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace . . . remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Ac 20:32 - 35

“Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.” Jn 6:27

“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” ^{Mt 6:24 - 34}

The *Bible* says more about money, but even if the above was all it said, there is more wisdom here than any other book ever written!

When life ends
devoted their life,
not satisfy?



(and it certainly does for EVERYONE) who wants to find out they
and was a slave to, a false mirage – one that, even if reached, will

“Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.

Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.” ^{Isa 55:1 - 2}

No amount of money can buy an ounce of grace – and ounce of grace is more valuable than any amount of money. A common refrain is that: “Money cannot buy happiness” – why, then, live like it can? Count your blessings and see how many can be or were purchased with money? Certainly none of the fruit of the Spirit:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ^{Gal 5:22 - 23}

With the promise being that are no physical, spiritual, financial . . . laws thwarting them – only our failure to recognize what is FREELY offered!

. . . we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. ^{2Co 6:1}

It is better not to receive a grace than to receive it in vain – without recognizing and being thankful for it!