

THE GRACE OF LIBERALITY

Lesson One

II Cor. 8:7

INTRODUCTION:

1. This is the beginning of a series of sermons on "The Grace of Liberty".
 - (1) LIBERALITY means: "generous"; "openhanded"
2. We make no apologies for preaching these sermons because this is a most neglected subject.
3. Many members of the church do not like to hear this subject discussed because it bothers their conscience.
4. In the Bible, warning after warning has been given about the improper use of money.
5. We will begin this study by looking at the warnings in scriptures

I. WARNING AGAINST THE WRONG USE OF MATERIAL POSSESSIONS

1. The RICH MAN and LAZARUS -- Luke 16: 19 - 31

- (1) The rich man was clothed in purple and fine linen -- v. 19
- (2) He fared sumptuously every day -- v. 19
- (3) Lazarus was poor, utterly destitute -- v. 20 - 21
- (4) He was covered with ulcerated sores -- Luke 16:20
- (5) The rich man was only interested in using his material goods on himself.
- (6) He refused the beggar at the gate and lost his soul -- v. 22 - 26
- (7) We cannot refuse to use our money to help others and the cause of Christ without losing our soul -- v. 22 - 26
 1. Judgment -- Matt. 25: 31 - 46
 2. Eph. 4:28; Tit. 3: 14
 3. Acts 20: 34 - 35
 4. I John 3: 17
 5. I Tim. 6: 17 - 19
 6. I Cor. 16: 1- 2

2. The RICH YOUNG RULER -- Mark 10: 17 - 22

- (1) This young man had conquered the appetites of his flesh to the extent of living a clean moral life.
- (2) But, he had not conquered his love for material possessions -- I Tim. 6: 9 -10
- (3) He loved his possessions more than he loved God.
 1. He was covetous --an idolater -- Eph. 5:5
 2. He wanted his money more than eternal life -- I Cor. 1: 26

3. The RICH FOOL -- Luke 12: 13 - 21

(1) Jesus here is teaching a lesson on COVETOUSNESS -- Luke 12: 15

1. Covetousness: "A desire for that which rightfully belongs to another"

2. Inordinate desire to have more and more.

3. Its ambition is to add dollar to dollar, house to house, field to field, investment to investment, primarily for the purpose of possessing and hoarding these material things -- Isa. 5: 8

(2) This rich fool was a successful farmer, an honorable occupation.

(3) He is not condemned for HOW he got his wealth, but HOW he used it.

(4) He left God out of his life and stored up wealth for himself.

(5) Covetousness is IDOLATRY --it robs man of God -- Col. 3:5; Matt. 6: 24

(6) It turns man away from God -- Matt. 6:24

(7) It chokes God out of men's lives -- Matt. 13:22

(8) When the rich fool left God out of his life, he eliminated his fellow man too -- When a man does not recognize his need of God he does not feel any obligation to his fellow man.

(9) The rich fool was in love with things because he was in love with self, and he thought things were the only essentials of his happiness.

1. His philosophy was, "For me to live is to have a lot of things to use on myself."

2. Jesus said, "*For a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth*" -- Luke 12:15

II. WARNINGS IN GENERAL:

1. Riches cannot redeem the soul -- Psa. 49: 6 - 7; I Pet. 1: 18 - 19

2. Riches cannot enter eternity -- Psa. 49: 10, 16 - 17; I Tim. 6:7

3. A good name rather to be chosen than great riches -- Prov. 22: 1

4. "*If riches increase, set not your heart upon them*" --Psa. 62:10; I Tim. 6: 9 - 10; Matt. 6: 19 - 21

5. "*No man can serve two masters -- ye cannot serve God and mammon*" Matt. 6:24

6. "*He that trusteth in his riches shall fall*" --Prov. 11:28

7. Increasing wealth causes one to be "*lifted up*" -- Ezek. 28:5

(1) "*By thy great wisdom and by thy traffic hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches*" -- I Tim. 6:17

8. Deceitfulness of riches chokes the Word of God -- Matt. 13:22

9. Those minded to be rich are subject to danger -- I Tim. 6: 9 - 10

10. The duty of the rich -- I Tim. 6: 17 - 19

III. THE REMEDY

1. Laying up treasures in heaven -- Matt. 6: 19 - 20

2. Be rich in good works -- I Tim. 6: 17 - 18

3. Be a faithful steward -- Luke 16: 11

4. Sow bountifully -- II Cor. 9:6; II Cor. 8:2

5. Beware of covetousness -- Col. 3:5; Luke 12:15; I Cor. 6:10; 10:14

CONCLUSION