PRINCIPLES OF PROPER STEWARDSHIP
(1 Timothy 6:6-10)

I. Our relationship with God is affected by our view of money.
   A. We need to realize that we don’t truly own anything and that God owns everything.
      3. 1 Corinthians 10:26.
      4. Since God entrusts us with these blessings, that makes us stewards of them and we are to be faithful in how we use them (1 Corinthians 4:2).
   B. We need to realize that true and lasting riches don’t come from this world (Matthew 6:19-21; 2 Corinthians 8:9).
      1. The things in this life lose their value and deteriorate.
      2. We will simply leave them to someone else one day.
      3. Even if they do happen to increase in value for some reason, they will simply burn up at Christ’s return.
   C. We need to realize that our having or not having wealth does not guarantee that we are acceptable to God.
      2. This is something the disciples of Jesus did not understand (Matthew 19:24-26).
         a. Their question showed they believed God was biased towards the rich.
         b. Just because mankind displays a certain attitude does not mean God does.
      3. Psalm 51:17 reveals that it is not outward possessions but inward attitudes that indicate a right relationship with God.
   D. We should realize it is possible to be rich and right with God, but it takes a great attitude.
      1. Notice Abraham’s attitude (Genesis 14:21-23).
      2. Notice that of Moses (Hebrews 11:24-26).
      3. Notice Job’s attitude in two areas:
         a. Towards the poor (31:16-22).
   E. We need to realize that it is an abnormal wanting or desire for money that is sinful, not having money (1 Timothy 6:9 - the phrase “they that will” carries the idea of setting affection on).

II. Reasons God has given for money.
   A. God’s word is not silent about why we need money.
   B. We need it to help the poor, which is probably the most emphasized reason for money in scripture.
C. We prove our love for God by giving to the poor (2 Corinthians 8:8; 1 John 3:17).
   1. The verse in 2 Corinthians is in the context of the congregation needing to give to a specific effort.
   2. Thus we learn that some of our giving to the poor is done through the congregation.

D. We help further the work of the church (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
   1. We know that it costs money to spread the gospel.
   2. It costs money to maintain a building and many other things, thus we have to have the right attitude towards giving on the Lord’s Day.

E. We have money for the necessities of life.
   1. God wants us to have those things (Matthew 6:33).
   2. He wants us to be content with the things we have (1 Timothy 6:8).
   3. God wants us to enjoy the creation that He has given us and that takes money as we know (1 Timothy 6:17).
   4. However, we get into trouble when we place our enjoyment of this world over proper stewardship of the financial blessings God has given us.

F. We need money to take care of our families (1 Timothy 5:8).

III. Realize there are problems associated with wealth.

A. With great blessing comes great responsibility.
B. Often, riches hinder spirituality (Mark 10:23-25).
C. Riches are deceitful (Matthew 13:22).
D. Wealth can lead to many temptations.
   2. When you have great wealth, more things are available to you and many of those things are not spiritually healthy.
E. Wealth can lead to covetousness (Luke 12:13-21).
   1. The more we have the more we want is a trap of wealth.
   2. There is never enough when money is our object.
F. Wealth does not endure just as we don’t (James 1:9-11).
G. Wealth tempts us to hold back from God (Mark 12:41-44).
H. Wealth can lead to trusting in something other than God (1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19).

From a sermon by Kevin Cauley.