

Money is a Tool and a Test of Stewardship - Jonathan Shibley

Key Verses:

Proverbs 13:7 - *One man looks to be rich (on the outside) yet has nothing; another man looks to be poor (on the outside) yet has great wealth.*

Matt 6:24 - *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.*

The Bible has more than 2300 verses that deal with handling money and possessions. God wants to bless His people. The wealth that God brings to His children is not only in material form (money), but in the form of spiritual blessings such as wisdom, character, and skills that can be passed on to future generations. Many people who have great material wealth are spiritually bankrupt.

We must see money as a tool that can be used for good. Money is necessary to meet needs. Therefore, it is good for businesses to generate profit. A profit is simply taking in more money for a product or service than the actual cost of the product or service. Profits can be used to generate growth for a business and to bless others.

The acquisition of money often brings with it a test of character. Often people think that money will solve all their problems. Many people begin to serve money, becoming motivated by money itself rather than using money as a tool. This causes personal, relational, and business problems. God wants His men and women to be those who have the character to handle money and steward it properly. In other words, we should embrace prosperity while renouncing materialism at the same time.