

4. Understanding Principles, Patterns and Practices

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Subtitle: The coming Transfer of Wealth

This will be the final message in this series entitled: Understanding Principles, Patterns and Practices.

All previous messages are available on our Youtube channel [video] and also on Spotify [audio]).

By way of review, we spoke about:

- Principled Leadership
- Being persons of principles instead of persons of preferences
- Know the difference between politicians who speak or vote according to sound principles and those who simply follow the “vein of popularity”
- Last week we discussed principles about handling money
- When our practices and patterns concerning money are based on biblical principles, it will lead us into prosperity

Definitions of Terms:

1. Principle – from Latin “*principium*”, meaning “beginning”
2. Practice – to carry out a certain action, doing things, etc.
3. Pattern – a repetitive way of speaking or acting

All our practices and patterns should be based on sound fundamental principles.

Quote by Edwin Louis Cole

“You become successful and prosper when you base your life on principles and find the patterns that work for you. The more you build your life on principle, the higher your highs, the straighter your path, and the greater your life.”

Today we will continue discussing principles about money.

James 5:1–6 (NKJV) *Come now, **you rich**, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! **2** Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. **3** Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. **You have heaped up treasure in the last days.** **4** Indeed **the wages of the laborers** who mowed your fields, which **you kept back by fraud**, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. **5** You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. **6** **You have condemned, you have murdered the just;** he does not resist you.*

- Principally, God is not against riches or against rich people
- James 5:1-6 is confronting a certain group of rich people, not because they are rich, but because they failed in their stewardship of God's resources
- These rich people were not Christians, but ruthless merchants and landowners who made profits by oppressing & defrauding poor people

Vs. 3 ... You have heaped up treasure in the last days ...

KJV ... You have heaped treasure together for the last days ...

- We are living in the last days before the return of Jesus Christ
- The Bible prophesies a transfer of wealth in the last days, from the hands of ungodly people into the hands of godly people

Proverbs 13:22 (NKJV) ... *the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.*

- Ungodly people gather up wealth for themselves, but God says, it is stored up for those who are righteous before him

Ecclesiastes 2:26 (NIV84) *To the man who pleases Him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of **gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God.** ...*

- There is coming a time when ungodly people will hand over their wealth to God's people
- In the meantime, they are working hard to gather and store the wealth which God needs in His Kingdom

- God needs this wealth in His kingdom, to fund the end-time harvest of souls

Job 27:13,16–17 (NKJV) *This is the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage of oppressors, received from the Almighty. ... 16 Though he heaps up silver like dust, and piles up clothing like clay— 17 He may pile it up, but **the just will wear it, and the innocent will divide the silver.***

- Wicked people who make lots of money by oppressing their suppliers and their employees are piling up wealth for people who are just and innocent
- The day will come when ... *the just will wear it, and the innocent will divide the silver*

Proverbs 28:8 (NKJV) *One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion **gathers it for him who will pity the poor.***

- Those who oppress the poor by charging excessive interest, extortionate prices and high rents, and who rip off workers, are gathering possessions for those who pity the poor

Preparing for the coming Transfer of Wealth

How can we prepare towards the transfer of wealth, from the hands of the wicked to the hands of the righteous?

Change our attitude toward money

1 Timothy 6:10 (NCV) ***The love of money causes all kinds of evil. Some people have left the faith, because they wanted to get more money, but they have caused themselves much sorrow.***

- It's the love of money, not money itself, that is the root of all evil (KJV)
- Money must be our servant, not our master
- Money is a tool, not a destiny

Matthew 4:17 (BCJ) *... Jesus began His ministry saying to all the people, **"Change your attitude and actions because an invasion of the Spirit is imminent."***

Amazingly, when Jesus first began to preach, the first thing He confronted in the people's lives was their attitudes.

Matthew 3:8 (BCJ) *If you intend to participate in the imminent spiritual invasion, **demonstrate a change in your attitude and actions.***

A change in our attitudes will bring forth a change in our actions.

- Our attitudes are the invisible drivers of the visible actions in our lives
- Every external action is governed by an internal attitude

Ephesians 4:23 (AMP) *And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [**having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude**].*

Participation in the transfer of wealth depends entirely on our attitudes.

The biggest shift required in our attitude and action needs to happen in two areas:

- a. All the money belongs to God
- b. We are only managers of God's wealth

God needs His people who would put up their hand and say:
Yes Lord, you can use me to channel money into the Kingdom of God.