

The Blessing of Covenant Wealth - Session I

The Blessing of the Lord Maketh Rich

A. Gen 1:26-28 The Blessing

1. God imparted “The Blessing” in these first recorded words to man
2. He told man who he was.
 - a. You have been created in my image and in my likeness.
 - b. You have been made an exact duplicate in kind to Me.
 - c. You are the Lord and Ruler over the earth under Me.
3. He told man what he was to do.
 - a. You are to be fruitful and multiply the Garden of Eden until it encompasses the entire earth.
 - b. You are to replenish and fill up the earth with My goodness.
 - c. You are to subdue the earth with all of its vast resources.
 - i. Keep it in line with My will.
 - ii. Put it back if it gets out of line.
4. He told man how to do this.
 - a. I have blessed you.
 - b. I have empowered you to prosper.
 - c. I have given you dominion and complete authority over the earth.
 - d. The Blessing covers everything.
5. We are going to spend the next few weeks talking about one aspect of The Blessing.

B. Prov 10:22 The Blessing of the Lord, it Maketh Rich and He Adds No Sorrow To It

1. (AMP) The Blessing of the Lord, it makes truly rich, and He adds no sorrow to it, neither does toiling increase it.
2. (NIV) The Blessing of the Lord brings wealth, and He adds no trouble to it.
3. (SEPT) The Blessing of the Lord is on the head of the righteous; it makes rich and to it no sorrow of heart shall be joined.
4. (LAM) The Blessings of the Lord bring riches, and there shall be no sorrow in them.
5. (NAB) It is the Lord’s blessing that brings wealth, and no effort can substitute for it.
6. (KNOX) Of the Lord’s gift comes wealth without drudgery.
7. (NJB) The Blessing of Yahweh is what brings riches. To this, hard toil has nothing to add.

C. Why Can’t Christians be Rich?

1. Preachers on television and radio, in pulpits—“It is not God’s will for Christians to be wealthy and rich.”
2. “I wouldn’t dare say, ‘I am rich.’”
3. Religion seems to have a big problem with Christians and wealth.
4. The secular world is much more encouraging—and makes more sense.

5. A sampling of secular books (not to mention all the TV ads for real estate development, working from your home and investment ideas)
 - a. “The Road To Wealth”
 - b. “9 Steps to Financial Freedom”
 - c. “The Guide to Becoming Rich”
 - d. “The Science of Getting Rich”
 - e. “Millionaire Maker”
 - f. “Start Late, Finish Rich”
 - g. “Retire Young, Retire Rich”
 - h. “Zero Debt”
 - i. “Rich and Happy”
 - j. “Why We Want You To Be Rich”
 - k. “Dare To Be Rich”
 - l. “Think and Grow Rich”
 - m. “Smart Women Finish Rich”
 - n. “Rich Women” (Proverbs 31 Woman)

“I have never believed that prosperity is bad or something to be shunned”

—Donald J. Trump

D. Isaiah 5:13 What Is Holding Us Back?

1. Lack of understanding and right teaching of biblical wealth
 - a. Kingdom principles of wealth
 - b. We don’t know how to act around wealth.
 - c. We don’t know what to do with it.
 - d. More about character than money
 - e. (Example) People who win the lottery most often end up broke.
 - i. A school bus driver who won \$1.6 million in 1983, filed for bankruptcy in 1997. He had gambled away his lottery payments.
 - ii. Lottery bailout companies are high growth firms with solid financial underpinnings, according to a Crain’s Business report, “a niche that has become increasingly more lucrative.” One company cuts about fifty deals a month with lottery winners. Another company bought \$18.7 million in lotteries in its second year in business. Three years later, it was up to \$150 million.
2. Religious thinking
 - a. Poverty mindset
 - b. Depression era attitude
 - c. Poverty vow
 - d. Fear of criticism for excess
 - e. Our background, experience and upbringing are lodged in our minds.
 - f. It takes the renewing of the mind by the Word of God to cut new grooves in our thought processes.
 - g. The inability to believe for it
 - i. Lack of developed faith

- ii. (Example) “This is too rich for my blood”—a neighborhood I ended up living in.
- 3. The Curse of Poverty
 - a. Deut 28:15 If thou wilt not hearken unto thy God, to observe to do all His commandments and all his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come on thee and overtake thee. Cursed shalt thou be in the city.
 - b. Vs 38-44 You will plant seed and reap little. You will plant vineyards and not drink. You will have olive trees with no oil. You will have to borrow from a stranger. He will be the head. You will be the tail.

E. II Cor 8:9 Can You Dare Say, “I Am Rich?”

- 1. (AMP) You are coming progressively to be acquainted with and to recognize more strongly and clearly the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ—His kindness, His gracious generosity, His undeserved favor and spiritual blessing; in that though He was so very rich, yet for your sakes, He became so very poor, in order that by His poverty you might become enriched—abundantly supplied.
- 2. “Rich” and “Wealth” are not dirty words—they are Bible words.
- 3. It is as much God’s will for you to be wealthy as it is for you to be healthy.
- 4. He wants us to live beyond a “paycheck to paycheck,” barely surviving lifestyle.
 - a. Bills paid and money left over
 - b. Debts removed
 - c. Back taxes paid
 - d. Credit card bills paid
 - e. Mortgages paid
 - f. Legal fees paid
 - g. Youth and Children’s Building paid
- 5. The Blessing of Covenant Wealth
 - a. How to receive it.
 - b. How to conduct ourselves around it.
 - c. How to properly handle it.

“To some, wealth is a curse. To us, wealth is a blessing.”