***YOUR GOD AND YOUR MONEY***

INTRODUCTION:

1. Matt 6:19-21
2. As disciples, we must acquire the heart and mind of Jesus in regard to material things and  continue to dedicate our lives accordingly. Our desire should be righteousness and eternal life, not the pursuit of worldly gain.

A. TEN ATTITUDES ABOUT MONEY

Ecclesiastes 5:18-19 Money is a gift from God. We need to be impressed with how concerned God is for our physical needs. God will keep us happy.

Proverbs 6:6-11 Proverbs 20:4 Money is the fruit of our labor. The example of hard work is upheld in the  Bible. Our income is the result of our labor. The "work ethic" is a God ethic. We are meant to earn what we make.

Psalm 49:16-20 - Money is a tool. According to Webster's, "a means to an end." This is a good way to view money: A tool to help advance God's Kingdom. Do not be awed by wealth, but remember we take nothing out of this world.

Matt. 6:24 - Money is a servant. If you live for money, then you have become its servant.

God will no longer be number one in your life. We must make a choice, "who will we serve?"

Matt. 6:33 - Making money must not be the goal of your life. Seek God, seek his Kingdom, seek lost souls, seek to encourage the brothers and sisters; and let God meet your financial needs.

Money should not be the object of our love. 3 reasons:

1 John 2:15 - It prevents us from loving God.

1 Tim. 6:6-9 - It will lead to other types of sin.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 - Money will leave you unsatisfied. Maintain a spirit of contentment about money.

Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:6-15; 1 Tim. 5:8 - Money should be honestly earned. Disciples must be  productive, working for a living and providing for the needs of their family.

1 John 3: 16-18 - Money can be an expression of our love. Be sensitive to the poor. Share with other  disciples who are in need.

Proverbs 23:4-5; Psalm 112:7-8 – Money, in itself, does not provide security. We are bombarded with ads promoting financial "security"; however, true security only comes from God.

Proverbs 30:7-9 - Money is best utilized when it is maintained with an attitude of balance. If you get out of balance, you may forget or dishonor the Lord. (1 Tim. 6:6-10) Contentment is a key to handling  money.

B. FOUR DECISIONS

1. Psalm 16:1 - Be grateful

2. Psalm 24:1 - Acknowledge God's ownership

3. Deuteronomy 6:10-12 - Don't forget God

4. Luke 14:33 - Commit yourself totally to God