

Hoover Church of Christ

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21

July 5, 2020

A warning

[This article continues my bulletin article series from James]:

The Bible says a lot about rich people, and most of it isn't pleasant. For some reason I find myself wanting to skip over these passages, or—if I pay any attention to them at all—explain why they don't really mean what they say . . . or why they don't apply to me or the people I'm teaching.

Could it have something to do with the fact that—because I have access to clean drinking water and plenty of food—I'm in the top echelons of the world population?

Is that why I was tempted to skip this passage?

That's probably the best explanation.

Here's one of the Bible's strongest warnings against the rich:

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you (James 5:1-6).

Here's the caveat you're expecting: James isn't teaching that rich Christians are inherently living outside of God's will. It seems clear he was addressing some specific sins in his audience. They were using their money and the position it gave them to mistreat people who were beneath them on the socio-economic scale.

With that caveat aside, however, James reflects a principle that's consistent in every Bible warning about money: having it brings some very dangerous temptations.

That's why Jesus told the rich ruler to sell what he had and give the money to the poor.

That's why the villain of one of his stories was a rich man (in the Lazarus story) who wasn't guilty of anything overtly "bad" (as far as the text is concerned).

That's why he condemned a man who made the seemingly wise business decision of replacing his storage buildings with bigger ones.

And that's probably why we ought to listen carefully to what he says about our money. Having things can cause us to think we're above other people. It can take our eyes off Jesus. It can lead us to put our trust in it instead of in God. It can cause us to mistreat people to our advantage (as with James's readers).

In short, it can become a god to us.

So let's read James carefully and resist the temptation to apply this to the guy at work who "really ought to listen" or the ultra-rich entrepreneur we know.

There's a pretty good chance we've been tempted to let our stuff take our eyes off the Savior.

—Chuck

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Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Bible Class

10:00 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

ELDERS

Carl Logan 979-9874

Jimmy Lyles 664-8160

Joe Thomas 823-0299

Paul Williams, Jr. 408-7234

Harold Rhodes 876-9296

MINISTER

Chuck Webster

(205) 586-5610 (cell)

cwebster@hoovercoc.org

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Kyle Wadley

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YOUTH & FAMILY

MINISTER

Darrell Powell

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dpowell@hoovercoc.org

Worship Assignments Sunday

Elder to Contact in July for Needs:
Jimmy Lyles

8:00am Service:

Call to Worship: Chuck Webster

Scripture Reading: Alex Roberts

Song Leader: Kyle Wadley

Opening Prayer: Norman Rutland

Sermon: Chuck Webster

Communion: Daniel Warren

Elder's Words: Carl Logan

Closing Prayer: Sam Warbington

10:00am Service:

Call to Worship: Chuck Webster

Scripture Reading: Kyle Bedgood

Song Leader: Kyle Wadley

Opening Prayer: Torrey Clark

Sermon: Chuck Webster

Communion: Steve Cotney

Elder's Words: Harold Rhodes

Closing Prayer: Steven Kitchens

One Word

One Word Devotional Readings: This is Week 27 of our reading, so the study this week is on the biblical idea of **Fellowship**. This is pages 165-170 of the **One Word** devotional book.

Sunday, July 5: Mark 13:14-37;
1 Kings 7; Hosea 9: 1-16

Monday, July 6: Mark 14:1-31;
1 Kings 8; Hosea 9:17-10:15

Tuesday, July 7: Mark 14:32-72;
1 Kings 9; Hosea 11:1-11

Wednesday, July 8: Mark 15:1-20;
1 King 10; Hosea 11:12-12:14

Thursday, July 9: Mark 15:21-47;
1 Kings 11; Hosea 13

Friday, July 10: Mark 16;
1 King 12:1-31; Hosea 14

Saturday, July 11: 1 Corinthians 1:1-17;
1 Kings 12:32-13:34; Joel 1

Today

Shawna Brown's classes for children who are two years old through fifth grade will meet on Zoom today. The 2-4-year-olds will meet from 3:00-3:30pm, and kindergarten through fifth grade will meet from 3:30-4:00pm.

Don't forget about KidSing today at 4:30pm!

Our Sunday evening class has been canceled due to the holiday weekend.

The office will be closed tomorrow to observe Independence Day. If you have an email that you would like to send to the congregation before Tuesday, please text Jean Troughton at (850) 499-1959.

Family News & Events

The Food Pantry will reopen on Sunday, July 26, and the food item that is needed this month is **Peanut Butter**.

Words of Gratitude

Dear Hoover Church of Christ:

Thank you SO much for your generous donation of hygiene bags! Your project enabled us to provide:

- **100** Hygiene Bags to No Child Hungry (We support them when we can during their summer feeding program)
- **100** Support Counselor Bags (We give these to each school counselor before school)
- **26** Family Emergency Food & Hygiene Boxes (We give these throughout the year to families in need)

We cannot tell you how much we appreciate each of you! Summer can be the hardest time to serve, but especially during this challenging time. Thank you for helping support our mission to feed kids in need, support responsible fatherhood, and help families in crisis.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Grissom, Community Engagement Director, Vineyard Family Services, Home of Backpack Buddies

Youth

Congratulations to our graduating Seniors!

- ◆ **Chloe Arnold**
- ◆ **Nya Gagakuma**
- ◆ **Keegan Holland**
- ◆ **Marcanthony Jenkins**
- ◆ **Keeley Percer**
- ◆ **Kyle Percer**
- ◆ **Mya Rumph**

Happy Anniversary

Joe & Sue Ann Myers	July 5
Mark & Jennifer Lackey	July 6
Kenneth & Ame Johnsey	July 7
Eddie & Doris Sankey	July 8

Happy Birthday

Josh Shelton	July 5
Chuck Webster	July 6
Ian Hillary	July 6
Betsey Williams	July 9
Liz Weymouth	July 9
Kendyll Covington	July 9
Mattie Grace Graham	July 9

Continually Surrounded

"Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD. Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!" (Psalm 32:10-11). God is aware of every detail of our lives. Nothing happens without His knowledge and approval. Every day, little changes in schedule or small irritations occur. Every day, we can choose to let these obstacles upset us, or we can rest in the knowledge that God lovingly ordained them as small irritants to help us look to and rely on Him. For example, we can grumble about the frustrating traffic jam that is keeping us from getting somewhere on time, or we can remember that God knows about our deadlines and view the time sitting in traffic as an opportunity to pray. We can complain, or we can rejoice. May we allow the knowledge that we are continually surrounded by God's unfailing love to permeate our lives and chase away our complaints and fears.

Principles of Interpretation

We should use the same principles to interpret the Bible as a judge would use to interpret the U.S. Constitution or a historian would use to understand the writings of Caesar.

History: the Bible was composed over a 1,600-year period that ended almost two thousand years ago. Why did Jonah act so harshly toward Nineveh? History teaches that Nineveh was the most hated nation of the eighth century B.C. and had terrorized Jonah's nation. One man said that Nineveh was "a cross between Nazi Germany and the Mafia" (Max Anders, *What You Need to Know About the Bible in 12 Lessons*, p.151).

Culture: Without understanding the Levirate marriage law, one cannot understand the book of Ruth. A male relative was required to redeem the land of his dead brother and raise up a child with the childless widow. As another example, writers living before the discovery of germs or molecules did not express scientific fact as modern scientists. If they had, their writings would have made no sense to anyone until our age arrived.

Geography: One major difference between modern and ancient times is the overcoming of distance. A man may now breakfast in London and lunch in New York over three thousand miles away. The world is a small place, and people live mobile lives. It was not so in Bible times. When we read the story of Samuel (1 Samuel 1-2), it seems that Hannah and the boy Samuel were far apart. Once a year, she visited Shiloh and gave him a coat she had made for him. The journey sounds like an expedition, yet Ramah and Shiloh were only about seventeen miles apart. In all His ministry, Jesus was never—as far as we know—more than a hundred miles from home. Why did He say they went up to Jerusalem when Jerusalem is south of Capernaum? We are used to looking at maps. North is "up" and south is "down." In Bible times, such maps were not common, but walking was. People who walked from city to city talked in terms of the lay of the land. When they went to Jerusalem from Capernaum, they ascended about a thousand feet up a steep incline.

Language: What do words you are studying mean in English? What do the words mean in the original language? After considering the possible meanings of the word, choose the meaning that best fits the immediate context. Difficult verses must be interpreted in light of clear verses. The implicit should be interpreted by the explicit. Narrative should be examined in light of the didactic.

—Author Unknown

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened."—Ephesians 1:18

Carelines

Remember our shut-ins: Jim Banks, Jeff Nabors, Rowena English, Joyce Baker, Lynne Nichols, Linda Garnett, and Nancy Williams.

Remember our church family: Dick Smith, Clara Thomas, Celeste Till, Virgie Banks, Sylvia Huffman, Sarah Washington, and Nancy Harris.

Remember our families and friends: Jen Bonnett (a friend of Leah Covington's), Bill & Virginia Aultman (Sid Aultman's parents), Brian Shaw (Tiffany Roberts' friend), Cally Nichols (Paul & Karen Kirby's friend's granddaughter), Terry Marlowe (Jim & Christy Reece's friend), Donna Wimberly (Lajuana Logan's sister-in-law), Dr. Lynn Simons (Lajuana Logan's friend), Michael Morns (Nikesha Fantroy's uncle), Lavorisa Washington, Jr., his wife, and child (Sarah Washington's nephew), Donald Wright (Sarah Washington's cousin), and Susie Eckert (Corey Covington's friend).

Gail Powell received results from a PET scan that showed she has a spot on her upper right lung and one at the lower part of her spinal column. Please pray fervently for her healing; she has been cancer-free for over seven years.

Denise Hunt, Rex Anderson's niece, is a nurse at one of the hospitals in Tallahassee, AL, and has tested positive for the Coronavirus.

Linda Graham is still at St. Vincent's East Rehab Hospital, Room 756. She is doing well.

Jim Banks is under the care of Hospice and needs our prayers for his comfort and peace. Please remember **Virgie** as she deals with his illness as well.

Geraldine Washington will have knee replacement surgery at Grandview Medical Center on Thursday, July 15.

Julius Davis, an eighty-eight-year-old neighbor of Jim and Christy Reece, is in the hospital because of internal bleeding. Please pray for his healing.

Attendance and Offering

June 28, 2020

Attendance:
Worship 8:00am
Worship 10:00am

Contribution: \$7,018.00
Weekly Budget: \$15,320.69
Weekly Average: \$14,982.45
Contribution to Date: \$389,543.66

Supported Works

- *Childhaven, Cullman, AL (\$20,000 annually)*
- *Rainbow Omega, Eastaboga, AL (\$10,000 annually)*
- *Churches of Christ Disaster Relief (\$10,000 annually)*
- *George Funk, Gospel Chariot Missions, South Africa (\$2,400 annually)*
- *Cy Walker, Guyana (\$1,200 annually)*
- *Food Pantry (\$9,000 annually)*
- *Guyana*
- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*
- *Peru*



**Partners in Christ
(Philippians 1:3-11)**

There will be no online class Sunday evening . . . the class will resume next Sunday, July 12.

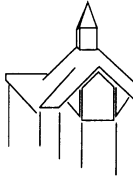
We _____ for one another

We _____ with one another

We _____ one another

We _____ for one another

Hoover
church of
Christ



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Place
Postage