

# “Seven Grave Mistakes with Money!” (Part 2)

*Psalm 24:1*

**Intro.** – Taking up where we left off last week, let us now consider the last four grave mistakes with money.

Years ago a group was in search for gold in the Klondyke. They had traveled deeply into the wilderness and came upon a miner’s hut. Entering the cabin they found the skeletons of two men. Surrounding the skeletons was a large quantity of gold. On a table was a letter telling all the detail behind their successful search for the precious ore. In their eagerness to get it, they forgot the early coming of winter in that Northern land. Each day, however, more gold was found in more abundance. The letter continued, “One day we awoke to a severe snowstorm. For days the tempest raged, cutting off all hope of our escape...” They tell how their little supply of food quickly was exhausted and now they lay amongst abundant gold but they did so to the neglect of providing a way out of the wilderness from the winter weather.

A museum in Deadwood, South Dakota displays the following inscription left by a beleaguered prospector: “I lost my gun. I lost my horse. I am out of food. The Indians are after me. But I have all the gold I can carry!”

Let me use these to introduce our continuation in the study of this message/text. How we all need to keep “things” in perspective and concentrate on that which is eternal and lasting.

*Purpose: to examine 4 of 7 grave mistakes in the use of money*

The following money mistakes is the 2nd part from last week’s first three grave mistakes:

## IV Trying to Get RICH QUICK (Proverbs 28:22)

- how often have you heard of *get rich schemes?*... note: often involves *using other people*...

### A. Hasten After Wealth

1. Proverbs 28:22 “*A man with an evil eye hastens after wealth, and does not know that want will come upon him.*”
2. If your desire is more and you are hastening to it, sooner or later it’s going to bite you.

### B. Love of Money

1. 1 Timothy 6:10 “*For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.*”
  - Illus. – “I want to make a million dollars so I can give more to the Lord.’ This is what I hear people often say. Listen, the Lord is not poor. Don’t hide your desire to be wealthy in a spiritual costume.”
2. A desire for great wealth often shows the desire for self-reliance = failure to acknowledge one’s real need – God’s wisdom and strength!

## V Being a TAKER and not a GIVER

- always ask couples in marriage counseling “Why do you think there are so many broken marriages? Heard it all... but, seldom do I hear “selfishness” and “the love of money”...
- Bible gives 2 principles that are inseparable = giving and receiving... must learn to do both:

### A. Wealthier by Giving Away

1. Luke 6:38 “*Give, and it will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For whatever measure you deal out to others, it will be dealt to you in return.*”
  - Illus. – learned this principle well from Daisy Fryberger – older lady in Lamar, CO who had little to nothing... BUT I learned she had much. She was the mother of Mamie Smith. Mowed her lawn for several years. Took about 30 minutes to mow. She would pay me \$2 and always have an ice cold Coke waiting for me at the kitchen table whenever I finished. Was always gracious and always complimentary. In her eyes I could do no wrong and she let her daughter and son-in-law know it... She didn’t have much, but she gave away more than I can tell.
2. How we all need to learn what our Lord said in Acts 20:35 “*It is more blessed to give than...*”

## B. Poor by Withholding

1. Proverbs 11:24-25 *“There is one who scatters, yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, but it results only in want. The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered.”*
2. The principle of “withholding and losing” is clearly taught throughout God’s Word...
  - commend those here who are learning well to become giving people!

Being a taker instead of a giver leads to further mistakes with money is the point of this section.

## VI Cheating in BUSINESS DEALINGS (Proverbs 17 & 18)

- honesty is not only the best policy – it is the only policy for true success

### A. Temporary “Success”

1. Proverbs 17:8 *“A bribe is a charm in the sight of its owner, wherever he turns, he prospers.”*
2. Proverbs 18:16 *“A man’s gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.”*
3. Cheating or dishonesty may give the appearance of “success”... what the world wants us to think... but dishonesty eventually catches up with you.
  - Illus. – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (Mrs. Zimmerman) spelling test every week... Long story short, I cheated to look good... never did get caught HOWEVER, to this day I am a poor speller...

### B. A Price Will be Paid

1. Dishonesty puts one at odds with God, whether caught and punished by man or not.
2. When we cheat, we go contrary to the will of God; thus, when getting money by ill gotten gain (cheating) we hurt others, as well as, ourselves. Cheating never prospers!

Let’s be with our Lord on this – let’s not be unfair in any business dealings with others!

## VII Living JOB-ORIENTED Lives (2 Timothy 2:4)

### A. Getting Priorities All Messed Up

1. Men and more and more women are getting wrapped up in their *work*... a desire for “success” is driving these career centered individuals.
  - now mind you, being a diligent worker is commendable BUT not at the expense of one’s relationships – with God, family and friends...
2. Need to keep priorities Biblical = God first, family 2<sup>nd</sup>, work 3<sup>rd</sup>!

### B. Keeping Priorities Not Easy

1. Talk to any mature servant of the Lord – keeping one’s priorities is a daily challenge.
2. I have personally blown this a number of times...
3. God will honor us when we put Him first, family second, others third...
  - Illus. – Russel Dora funeral in Falmouth, Indiana. Mary was expecting Adam and was scheduled for a C-section in Oxford, OH 4-15-80 at 8 AM. Russel Dora passed away couple of days prior to this. Local funeral director in Rushville, IN called... The Dora family was most understanding...

God WILL honor us when we put him first, Family second, Others (job) third.

**Conclusion:** There certainly are other mistakes often made when it comes to money matters, but, these seven have to be right at the top of the list. The point in presenting these is to show the credibility of our commitment. How we handle money is much like how we treat our mates, how we train our kids, how we work our jobs, how we treat the brethren etc. etc. In short, the way we handle money is an indicator of our love and devotion to Christ and His Church. Let’s not let these seven grave mistakes with money hinder our worship and service to Christ our Lord!