

# Money and the Christian

## Introduction

1. **We are probably familiar with the Bible's teaching that "the love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Timothy 6:10)**
  - A. **We know the evil that is done for money and what it buys.**

## Money and Our Spirituality

1. **Have you ever considered that the way we use and spend our money is a measure, gauge or barometer of our spirituality.**
  - A. **This is, in part, what the Apostle Paul seems to be teaching.**  
**Galatians 6:6-10**
    - 1) **The context of this passage, which is often ignored, is the use of our earthly resources, which would certainly include our money.**
2. **Paul shows that "those who are taught" should share with those who teach them.**
  - A. **This sharing or partnership is often referred to in scripture as "fellowship."**
    - 1) **It involves Christians who are taught spiritual things sharing their physical blessings with the teacher.**
    - 2) **There are other New Testament passages that show the same thing regarding support of both elders and preachers.**

**3. He then sets forth a truism: God won't be mocked or treated with contempt in this regard. What a man sows, he will reap.**

**A. The context is still in regard to the use of our resources relative to the kingdom and teaching.**

Galatians 6:8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

**B. We can't sow one kind of life and reap another!**

**1) The key point is this: We can't make all of our investment in the material, worldly and earthly and then expect to reap a spiritual life.**

**4. Jesus made the same point, with the same context.**

**Matthew 6:19-21**

**A. We can't use our money and resources to simply accumulate earthly treasures and then expect to reap any more than those earthly treasures and pleasures.**

**1) You reap what you sow!**

**2) The point is this: To get the most for our dollar – invest in the spiritual.**

## Sowing to the Flesh

1. **The Bible teaches that we are not to sow for the things of the flesh – but rather for the spirit.**  
**1 Timothy 6:17-19**  
**2 Corinthians 9:6-7**
  - A. **Notice the relationship again and again between how we use or invest money and the results or rewards.**
    - 1) **Also, that it is not just a reference to sinful uses versus righteous uses, but a matter of how our physical blessings are used or not used for spiritual ends.**
2. **The bottom line is this:**
  - A. **Don't think that we can outwit God and reap spiritual blessings when we've only sown for the obtaining of physical blessings.**
  - B. **"Sowing to the flesh" regards using our money for things that give fleshly joy and gratification.**
    - 1) **That fleshly joy is what we reap and it is temporary and corruptible – not everlasting.**
3. **This fleshly approach was the one exemplified by the Lord in His account of the rich man.**  
**Luke 12:16-21**

## Sowing to the Spirit

1. **“Sowing to the Spirit” refers to doing things to assist the Holy Spirit and benefit man’s spirit.**
2. **When Paul wrote to the Galatian brethren he gives an example of this very thing.**
  - A. **When one shares in the spreading of the gospel by financially assisting those who teach, he sows to the Spirit.**
    - 1) **But this isn’t the only way to sow to the Spirit.**
      - a. **Relieving the suffering of brethren and helping the poor of this world both manifest God’s love and glorify God and the work of the Spirit.**
  - B. **These uses of our resources reap for us “everlasting life.”**
3. **The apostle Paul in writing to the Galatian brethren does not define just how much of our money or resources we are to spend on “sowing to the Spirit.”**
  - A. **He did mention “not sparingly.”**
  - B. **It is logical to conclude that our investment will mirror what we hope to reap.**
4. **As financial advisors today might say, it’s “short-term investment” versus “long term investment.”**
  - A. **Spiritually, short-term investments produce only temporal and temporary reward. The long-term is the eternal.**

## **Money - A Measure of Our Lives**

- 1. Money, like time, is really just a “measure” of our lives. Money is nothing in itself.**
  - A. It merely establishes a value for the time we expend in our lives and becomes a means of exchanging the efforts of our life for things we need, want and value.**
  - B. Time and money also are alike in that how we use either one determines, to a large degree, our future.**
    - 1) I believe this seems to be one of Paul’s points in the passage of Galatians 6:6-10.**
- 2. If we use most of our money and time for self-gratification – that gratification is our reward.**
  - A. If we use our time and money for the Spirit’s work and for the spiritual in general – then everlasting spiritual life with God is the harvest!**
- 3. We must be careful not to fool ourselves or think God can be fooled in any way.**
  - A. We can’t spend most of our time and money on fleshly, earthly matters and then harvest a spiritual crop!**

## Conclusion

1. **If we really want to do an analysis of our personal spirituality, we need to look at our checkbook. Examine spending habits.**
2. **See where our priorities lie.**
  - A. **It may shock us to learn how we've been using our life, but it certainly will tell us what sort of return on our equity we can expect.**
3. **The truth is before us. We just have to open our eyes and see it for what it is and then be determined to make the needed changes to ensure that God sees that we are investing in Him.**
4. **Truly, each one of us will "reap what we sow."**

