

PWM: Often said: *Money is Spiritual...* It is a tool, it is Foundational, but if we are not careful it can become a distraction... In the passage we are going to look at, Jesus speaks to a church where money has become its focus... This is hurting them-

Revelation 3:14-22 (NKJV) "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵ "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²² "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."'"

I THE MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS:

A- Society has often made money a measurement of success.

1. You are successful and matter MORE because of your Income per year, House in the best most new development, Vehicle year/make/model, bank account balance/savings balance/trades/stocks/crypto has "x-amount of dollars"

B- But this isn't new! The church in our passage thought the same-

1. We are successful because we have MONEY-

a. **Revelation 3:17** Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'

i. We are financially successful, therefore we are successful; in Salvation, Spiritually, Eternally-

2. But Jesus clearly does not define success in a dollar amount-

a. **Rev3:17** you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked

i. Yes you have money, yes you are rich by the worlds standards, but NO you are not successful in spiritual things-

ii. Financial blessing and increase is not the same as being approved by God- *I've met some rich devils*

3. This not only made them deceived, but this also made them complacent... Jesus uses the idea Lukewarm-

a. **Rev3:16** So then, because you are lukewarm...

i. Lukewarmness has caused you to be Not Useful in the Kingdom... Your not hot and useful and you are not cold and useful... This spiritual decline makes you unsuccessful-

C- Its interesting that we can work so hard for something that isn't the point-

1. Luke 12 Jesus speaks a parable about a rich fool, the danger of this measurement is SELF... Self focused- Self Blinded

a. I have enough, I will rest, I will enjoy... Fool, you've only thought about YOU!

2. This is what happened to the church in our passage- WE are successful, we are blessed, we are content... but that's not the point-

II FINANCE FOCUSED:

A- Now, God does not say that they need to be poor, or that having money is evil-

1. But by being finance focused; they have become distracted and pride filled.

2. If we are not careful: Money can become a distraction: Making it & growing it becomes the focus every day-

a. **Matt 6:24** No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and money.**

i. You are going to make one your focus, and therefore your God- This happens more often than you realize!

ii. It's justified: Need, Struggle, Future... But money demands like a god-

3. If we are not careful: Money becomes our Security: The source of our trust... I trust myself, my assets, my portfolio

a. It becomes our Pride & Identity... Jesus kind of mocks them; **Rev3:18 Righteousness is security in me...**

i. You need Eye Salve so you can see... Laodicea had a healing eye salve that they exported, Jesus said you need some Holy Ghost eye salve!

b. You think you are secure... But your not, because your security is incorrect! Its in a insecure system-

B- When it comes to men of God and calling... You will need to make money decisions based on your calling, ability, season

a. **2 Kings 5:26** Is this the time to take money

1. During Pioneering: That is not the time for Money Matters... Business building, Purchasing a home, Lifestyle's

2. During a Missionary tour: That may not be a time for Money Matters...

3. During a takeover: That may not be the time for Money Matters...

4. See, There is a time and season for those things, there is an appropriate approach to these things...

a. **Ecc3:2** There is a time to plant and a time to pull up plants...

i. That is not to say they aren't important, but it really comes back to timing- IS IT THE TIME FOR THAT?

ii. Is it the thing I need to focus on right now? Maybe not... Not yet...

III TRUE RICHES:

A- Jesus corrects their focus- Note: His tone is a rebuke & a chastening.

1. **Rev3:19** As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten

a. I love you, and I am showing you where you are wrong (rebuke), and I am guiding you about how to correct it (chastening)...

2. The focus is off, but you're not disqualified... You can change it!

a. Which will change where you are at today, where you will be tomorrow, and how you will make impact eternally!

3. I am showing you how to be useful! Usefulness is not wrapped up in a dollar amount, its wrapped up in obedience-

a. Obedience to the most important thing-

B- Rev3:19 Therefore be zealous and repent.

1. Have zeal and passion for the CALL/the Eternal/Souls... not the temporary, money, financial focus

2. Repent: Change your mind about money, change your relationship with money, change your focus... Get the priorities right