

# North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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2/21/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part  
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## **Salvation Perspectives**

God's Perspective

- Salvation from sin

Man's Perspective ("tenses")

- Positional (from penalty of sin)
- Experiential (from power of sin)
- Ultimate (from presence of sin)

## **Sanctification Perspectives**

God's Perspective

- Sanctified (set apart for Him)

Man's Perspective ("phases")

- Positional (imputed R+ / judicially)
- Experiential (imparted R+ / daily)
- Ultimate (completed R+ / eternally)

## **Grace**

You were PREDESTINED to suffer for Christ's sake.

## **Grace**

You were PREDESTINED to prosper for Christ's sake, only the prosperity emphasized in the Bible is eternally weighted (Pr 16:11; Jn 4:36-38; Ro 6:20-22; 1Ti 6:6-21; Rev 3:18-21).

## **Appropriating Grace**

By definition, if we can rightly say that we are prosperous in any way, we must consider WHY He has ordained it and WHAT we are to do with this reality.

## **Prosperity Testing**

Do the blessings you believe you have make you feel good about yourself or God???...do they glorify you and your labors to "receive" them or do they glorify God?

## **Ecc 2:26 [NLT]**

*God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy to those who please him. But if a sinner becomes wealthy, God takes the wealth away and gives it to those who please*

*him. This, too, is meaningless-like chasing the wind.*

### **"wisdom and knowledge and joy"**

Who does God give these most precious divine prosperity gifts to? - Answer: "to a person who is good in His sight."

### **"the task of gathering and collecting"**

Who does God curse with the pain of losing worldly prosperity? - Answer: "to the [habitual] sinner."

### **Divine Wisdom Regarding Prosperity**

Challenge yourselves right now to see if the "mind of Christ", the very heart of Christ as revealed IN SCRIPTURE, has anything whatsoever to do with you "gathering and collecting" unto yourself. Look for the PURPOSE of prosperity in the Bible...what is it, really???

### **The Purpose of Prosperity**

- Purpose: God gives grace to glorify Himself
- The Passed Test ("The Giver"): man "does business" with His grace by living for others ("good in His sight" - Ecc 2:26)
- The Failed Test ("The Keeper"): man does business for self by living for self ("[habitual] sinner" - Ecc 2:26)

### **Divine Wisdom Regarding Prosperity**

False doctrines always implode upon themselves eventually. Under the weight of enough scripture and humility, our religions always fail, giving way to the Light of life.

### **Consider the following:**

- the toddler who has no concept of wealth has no bondage to it
- the world taught you how to idolize (self and others and wealth, even)
- the world taught you to esteem those with worldly riches
- the world system persists

### **Heb 4:12-13**

*For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*

### **2Co 9:6-7 [Amplified]**

*Now [remember] this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows generously [that blessings may come to others] will also reap generously [and be blessed]. Let each one give [thoughtfully and with purpose] just as he has decided in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver [and delights in the one whose heart is in his gift].*

### **2Co 9:6-7 [Message]**

*Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your*

*own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.*

### **What Can We Give?**

- Of Person (who we are): time, talent, energy, attention
- Of Possession (things we own): money, property, stuff

### **2Co 9:8 [Amplified]**

*And God is able to make all grace [every favor and earthly blessing] come in abundance to you, so that you may always [under all circumstances, regardless of the need] have complete sufficiency in everything [being completely self-sufficient in Him], and have an abundance for every good work and act of charity.*

### **2Co 9:8 [Message]**

*God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done.*

### **Prosperity Testing**

Prosperity is a multi-faceted test that includes not just one's own struggle with lusting it, but also one's consideration of those without it and the possibility of making them stumble.

### **A Woman's Teaching Ministry**

Biblically speaking, women are encouraged to teach children (2Ti 3:15) and younger women (Tit 2:4), but they are not to have public teaching ministries, especially ones that include men.

### **Living the Lie**

Too many "Christians" are living a lie...a willful one...living for self rather than others, "collecting and gathering" unto themselves, building larger barns, failing the prosperity test.

### **Christ's Perspective (ref: 1Co 2:16)**

Christ unabashedly and unequivocally denounced the contemporary "Prosperity Gospel" (eg: Lk 9:57-62).

### **Are We to Pity Jesus (Lk 9:58)?**

May it never be! One commentator wrote: "He does not need your pity. Pity yourself rather if you have a home that holds you back when Christ wants you out upon the high places of the world."

### **Divine Wisdom Regarding Prosperity**

In order to possess true wisdom regarding prosperity, you MUST first reconcile your life with the likes of Ecc 2, 5; Ac 20:35; 1Co 4:7; Php 2:3-4; and especially 1Co 2:16!

### **Wisdom**

Solomon was richer than you are now. He was wiser than you are, too. If those assumptions are true right now, and his conclusion after working for worldly stuff was "everything is futility and striving after wind," then what say you?

### **Why Does God Ordain Wealth?**

God will bless the earnings of the humble person by subsequently giving them

the blessing of giving as an expression of Christ-like love towards others. Both blessings are from God, the latter being the greater of the two.

### **Courage Is Faith**

Are you going to put off addressing the obvious for another day?...or are you willing to address the problem that only seems to be visible when the Word speaks to your heart?...or are you going to continue swimming in the world's system of thinking, being double-minded?

### **False Prosperity**

Self-sanctifiers cling to false end goals and adhere to the maxim, "The ends justifies the means." Prosperity to self-sanctifiers appeals to the flesh.

### **True Prosperity**

The righteous cling to end goals given to them by God. They are not preoccupied with having to justify the means by which grace delivers them to prosperity; they enjoy ride, they live by faith (ala Ro 1:17).

### **Grace**

You were PREDESTINED to prosper for Christ's sake, only the prosperity emphasized in the Bible is eternally weighted (Pr 16:11; Jn 4:36-38; Ro 6:20-22; 1Ti 6:6-21; Rev 3:18-21).

### **Grace-Orientation**

Is your purpose for working hard so that you can benefit, or others? But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? (1Jn 3:17).

**Jn 1:14** *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**Jn 17:17** *"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*