# North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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1/31/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 46

#### **Discovering Wealth**

Maybe, just maybe, God's telling you that your fleshly senses have been wrong all this time. Maybe your so-called Christian friends are wrong, too. Maybe your scale of values is off...and as a result, your "life goals" are off, too.

# **Discovering Color-Blindness**

If you were color blind, for real, physically...how would you EVER realize it, unless someone came along and TOLD you that you were???

# **Discovering Wealth**

For citizens of the U.S., even believers, the shock of realizing that their entire scale of values has been off would be just as shocking as finding out they've been color blind their whole lives, and they're just figuring it out now!

# **Discovering Wealth (God Saves and Sanctifies!)**

Experientially, He's saving you from the slave market of sin (bondage) and sanctifying you to the slave market of righteousness (freedom)!

#### True Faith - Mt 17:20

True faith always implies complete surrender to God, His will, His precepts, His commands, and even His scale of values. Both the source and the object of faith is God.

#### Who's Your God?

Is God nothing more than a cheesy, second-rate suitor to you? Do you think that His goal is to "flirt" with you by encouraging your obsession with worldly prosperity (money, toys, clothes, etc.)? Does Satan disguise himself as an angel of light?

#### Who Receives Your Gratitude?

Based on how/when most Christians say "thank you" to God, one has to wonder WHICH god they are ACTUALLY thanking!

#### Who Gave Who What?

As yourself the next time you purchase something. Do the reactions of others factor into your decision? If you could have a functionally equivalent item, less

the name tag or the "look at me" flash, would you purchase it? Why not purchase what you want rather than what the world wants?

#### **Are You Wealthy or Poor?**

This, my friends, is an all-out reality check! To the degree that you put any stock in what others think, to that degree you are poor. If you think this is comical or something to be laughed off, you are broke already.

#### Is 55:1 [Amplified]

"Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money come, buy grain and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost [simply accept it as a gift from God].

#### Is 55:2 [Amplified]

"Why do you spend money for that which is not bread, and your earnings for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight in abundance."

#### Is 55:8 [Amplified]

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord."

#### Is 55:9 [Amplified]

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts."

#### 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).

# **Divine Prosperity**

Wisdom is among the greatest forms of prosperity. Her "fruit is better than gold" (Pr 8:19). Any other form of prosperity in the absence of divine wisdom is fruitless.

# **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 the ride, they live by faith (ala Ro 1:17).

# **Divine Prosperity**

We must learn to LEARN first! The things we build for ourselves are like houses awaiting their own destruction (Pr 14:11-14; cp Mt 7:26-27). God may be patient with us, but judgment is always carried out eventually. God hates false prosperity and self-sanctification.

# **Divine Perspective**

God's scale of values is completely different than the world's (Pr 16:11; Is 55).