

# North Christian Church -

## Pastor Ed Collins

[www.nccdighton.org](http://www.nccdighton.org)

7/7/16 - Heart Disease In America

### **Celebrating the Wrong Kind of Wealth**

As James pointed out in Jas 2:1-9, to some, it doesn't matter HOW a person acquires wealth, but rather THAT they possess it. The focus is completely perverted - self-sanctifiers celebrating "greater" self-sanctifiers.

### **Heart Disease**

It's a pretty sick heart condition when one stands opposed to the Great Commission in favor of gathering unto oneself. A sick heart is a deceived heart. The problem with deception is that, by definition, you don't know when you're in it. (Mt 6:23)

### **Freedom**

Drop you what thought you knew about being successful as a person, or mature, or even pious (for most are far from Jas 1:27). Much of your suffering will dissipate once you realize it is self-inflicted as the result of buying a lie.

### **On Faith:**

Sometimes God will give faith to the reluctant. In other words, our flesh may not WANT more of Christ's heart on something because it knows that we become responsible to God on that subject (Lk 12:48 - to whom much is given, much is required).

### **Balance Statement**

Wealth isn't the issue, it's what we THINK about said wealth. E.G., God may rightly ask one person to store up finances in order to someday support a mission of His, and that is totally righteous, but only for the person who has a godly heart concerning finances.

### **Balance Statement**

Not every believer is called to "sell everything" at once since some things used by God for His glory cost more than others (implies some save to be used later). If everyone's broke, He wouldn't be able to use us the way He desires.

### **Balance Statement**

God's trying to get us to the "Kingdom of Heaven", which is a reality available to

every believer right now! AFTER we are "there", then He can direct our earnings AND our expenditures to accomplish His will. Context is key!

### **Perspective**

Perspective is key. You'll never find it if you don't first have context (e.g., Lk 12:16-21 - Parable of the rich man's barns).

### **Balance Statement**

Please do not make the grave mistake of assuming that everyone who "stores up treasures" is doing so "for himself" and therefore disqualifying themselves as being "rich toward God". A person may be both "rich" by world standards and "rich" by God's. Wealth is a heart issue through and through.

### **Balance Statement**

In some cultures, asceticism is highly esteemed, even if the motivation is altogether wrong. This, too, is ungodly. This may be less common in America, for example, but it's no less evil than esteeming the rich for being rich. Esteem ought never be derived from ANY world scale of values!

### **Perspective**

Who says we're supposed to be "comfortable" in this world? Ambassadors are "working" for as long as they are in the foreign country, right? We are ambassadors for Christ (2Co 5:20).

### **Perspective**

- When's the last time you received a bump in pay and your first reaction was to increase your giving to the church?
- When's the last time you realized that the greatest "bump in pay" is his gracing you out with faith???

### **The Elephant In the Room**

Will we miss out on the blessing of doing His will in time?

### **Perspective**

If the Kingdom of Heaven (God) is freely given to ANYONE on this planet, regardless of worldly citizenship, and America is now touting a perversion of true freedom called, "prosperity freedom", then what say you of the Great Commission?

### **Institutionalized Arrogance**

Just about every aspect of American life represents institutionalized arrogance, which is to say that social, cultural, and economic objectives are ungodly, organized to meet the desires of the flesh.

### **Wikipedia**

The "Leader of the Free World" is a colloquialism, first used during the Cold War, to describe either the United States or, more commonly, the President of the United States of America.

### **Context of American Life**

The true test for most American believers is whether or not they will take their worldly riches (the vast majority are very wealthy compared to the rest of the

world) and use those resources to the benefit of spreading the Gospel. Peace evades those who refuse.

**Jn 8:32**

*and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."*