

# **“DELIVERANCE FROM FINANCIAL WORRIES, A DESPERATE NEED INDEED!”**

Every Christian will at once recognize the truth stated in our sermon title. There is a desperate need for God's workers to be delivered from the oppressive weight of financial worries. From the ministers who are called to full-time work, to the lay person who works at a secular job, all of God's workers need to have the right attitude toward money matters, for no Christian can avoid having to deal with finances. It is such a part of our daily lives that we cannot help but see to it. But, in *seeing to it*, there is great danger that we will come under its power. And so, we ask the question, "What should the Christians attitude toward money be?"

Though we speak to all Christians about this subject, ministers should take special note, for if money has any power over us, we will not be able to help God's people be loosed from it. There is no need for any of us to rise up and deny that we are affected by it, for if we have not been delivered, we still have the problem. We were born with a covetous spirit. It is one of the deadly results of The Fall.

**I Tim. 6:6-11, "For Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment, let us be therewith content. BUT THEY THAT WILL BE RICH FALL INTO TEMPTATION AND A SNARE, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL. Which while some coveted after THEY HAVE ERRED FROM**

By C.W. Wood

**THE FAITH, AND PIERCED THEMSELVES THROUGH WITH MANY SORROWS. But thou, O man of God, flee these things, and follow after righteousness, Godliness, Faith, Love, Patience, Meekness."**

How could the Holy Ghost have framed a sterner or more clearly stated warning? Please notice, God said, "Those that want to be rich WILL fall into a snare and be drowned, not perhaps, but they WILL be drowned in the snare of loving money." He went on to say that you CANNOT LOVE MONEY without leaving the Christian Faith. If then this be God's own statement, we must ask the question, "Who is in the True Faith?" The answer has already been given in our scripture. It is only those who have been delivered from the LOVE OF MONEY. The rest have erred from the Faith! What a sobering statement! To love money is to leave the Christian Faith.

How many today have not as yet settled the financial issue in their minds? However many there be, they are sure to be influenced by money considerations. If a minister has no guarantee of support in one place, he will go to another. Of course, being a Christian he will have learned that he should pray about where he goes, and no doubt he will go through the ritual. But, he is almost sure to feel "LED" to the place where the support is promised. This is quite a NATURAL thing with us minister friends, but let it be

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said that this is a very late date for Bride people to be influenced by their NATURAL inclinations. To disregard poor districts and poor churches, or small congregations because of money considerations is a sin before God, and don't suppose that He is not keeping records. We will be confronted with it one day!

Check and see how many small groups in our Message have no pastor, while the large groups have a waiting list of those preachers who would like to come in. This is to "Go the way of Balaam." "No man can serve two masters....Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Mat.6:24) If the God that we serve is the universal God, and the same in every nation, city, town, and village, then can't we serve Him anywhere He bids us go? If he is not a God that can meet every need, in any location, then we have an excuse for not going certain places. It is a shameful thing to set out to serve OURSELVES under the guise of serving Christ.

If He is not a God that can meet every need in every nation under the sun, then the ministers in those poor countries need to give up their attempts to serve Him, at least until they can learn to trust Him for themselves. Far better it would be to quit the ministry, than to bring reproach upon our Father by a continual asking of others. Even when our needs are legitimate and we intend to use the money for God's ordained programs, we shame Him by asking those other than Him for support. It

is true that God's Children are to support the ministers, but it is a false teaching that the ministers should go with their hand out seeking offerings. God, Himself, will move on the hearts of those who are to give to us.

God has set before us the right way, which is to let our needs be known to Him and Him only, and we must see that we do not depart from it, lest we end up as Balaam did **"Having a heart exercised in covetousness."** Before our conversion our hearts had been trained in GREED, and when we were brought into the Kingdom that greed was still there, and must be dealt with by the Holy Ghost. It's true that this greed can be well cloaked beneath the robes of righteous works, and that we excuse ourselves for asking on the grounds of these works, but it is still wrong.

When Peter writes of the **"Way of Balaam"**, he is taking notice of false teachers and warns us, **"Among you also there shall be false teachers, who shall privily bring in destructive heresies....and in COVETOUSNESS shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you."** (II Pet. 2.1-3) With words of promise that the money they ask for will be put to right use they, with a covetous heart, make merchandise of you, Peter said. They will take your money and when the coffers are overflowing it can easily turn into a destructive thing. It is a destructive heresy for God's people to pull for money. We had a Prophet who was so dead set against it that he would allow no one to travel with him who stooped to it in his meetings. Friends, do we believe that part of the Message? Do we believe it was the Holy Ghost who placed that principle in the Prophet's heart? Then how is it that some of our ministers have so far departed from it? How easy it is to take hold of the parts of the Message

that fit our lifestyle while we ignore other necessary parts, yet saying we are following the Message. We are challenged to believe it all!

Realizing that many honest and sincere brothers, especially those overseas in poor countries, have not realized their error in depending on, and asking for, support from other ministries, to them we especially address this teaching. Not to condemn, but to obey the scripture that says speak in love to a brother we see in a fault. With a true concern for your needs, we must tell you that the quickest way for your meal barrel to run empty is to form a habit of asking others for support. You may temporarily increase your purse, but in the final end, those you ask will grow weary of your asking. And, not only so, but the unsaved around us know how wrong it is, and will be turned away from the Gospel.

The above remarks are crude, but the time has come for the truth to be spoken in love. We need to understand the principles of God and put them to work in our lives. We see a great need for many to be delivered from the concern about finances. This is a very serious matter and we pray it will not be taken lightly. God has many deliverances for us, and this is surely one of the most urgent.

We need to ask ourselves the question, "Who is responsible for financing the work that God sets before us?" Without pausing to consider the question, many suppose that we, ourselves, must bear the burden. But, the scripture says no such thing! It says GOD will supply all our needs. Phil. 4:19, **"But MY GOD shall supply all you needs according to HIS RICHES in Glory by Christ Jesus.."** It is not according to OUR bank account, but according to HIS bank account. Our eyes must be on His riches, not on our poverty. The Lord will always finance His own projects. When we

start a work separate from His will, we are often left to pay the bills, but God never fails to pay the bills for His own projects.

In this we see a principle, we must pray and wait until we are sure the Lord has set the work before us, and not only so, but we must seek His timing for the work. This being done, we are to turn all responsibility for financing over to Him. If we would comply with His fullest wishes we will tell no one of our needs, but seek the Face of Him who **"Knows what we have need of before we ask."** (Mat. 6:8) **"Whatever is not of faith is sin."** (Rom. 14:23) When we see Him bringing in the wherewith for the work, it is our confirmation that the project is His, and being His, we are relieved from financial worries concerning it.

QUOTE: FIVE IDENTIFICATIONS OF THE CHURCH PAGE 18, "When they asked for a King, Samuel called them and said this, he said, "I want to ask you something. Have I ever failed you? HAVE I EVER ASKED YOU FOR ANY OF YOUR MONEY....he said, O Samuel you're sure right. You're a good prophet. You've never told us nothing but the truth; YOU'VE NEVER BEGGED US FOR MONEY." (End quote)

QUOTE: DEMONOLOGY PAGE 63. "Brother Baxter said, 'Brother Branham,' said, 'You'd better let me make a little pull.'" Said, 'They've had some of these here divine healers down here that's just pulled this people.' I said, 'Nothing.' No sir, you won't do it. Brother Baxter, whenever you make pulls for money like that, that's the time you and I just shake one another's hands as brothers. I'll go alone. See? I said, 'You don't do that.' I said, 'God owns the cattle on a thousand hills, and everything belongs to Him. I belong to Him. He'll take care of me.'" (End quote)

QUOTE: THE FIRST SEAL PAGE 172-173, "Oh how I love this! Let me tell you. We are saying what a conquering he (anti-christ) is going to do, and he is really going to conquer, he has already done it! It is just already sewed up, that's all. **THEY WILL SEW UP THE MONEY – FILTHY LUCRE!** Exactly! They love money more than they love God. All they think about now is **HOW MUCH MONEY HAVE THEY GOT.** What is it? You know it has been said lots of times; Give the church the **MONEY**, **AND** she will revolutionize the world. Give the church the money and she will send evangelists all over the world. And what will she do? She will conquer the world for Christ.

CONT. QUOTE; Let me tell you something, my poor blind friend. This world is not won **BY MONEY**, but by the Blood of Jesus Christ. Give God man who are gallant man, will stand on that Word, live or die—that will conquer....**MONEY** won't have nothing to do (with) it – send them farther into denominational traditions." (End quote)

Of course we understand that the Prophet was not saying that it does not take money to spread the Gospel. He is only teaching the same thing Jesus taught when He sent forth His disciples. Luke 9 records His sending forth of the Twelve, and the following chapter, his sending forth of the Seventy. In speaking to the Twelve He said, "**Take nothing for your journey, neither staff, nor wallet, nor bread, NOR MONEY, neither have two coats.**" In speaking to the Seventy, the principles were the same; "Carry **NO PURSE, NO WALLET, no shoes.**"

Now, it is certain that the Lord knew they would need all the things he told them to leave behind, so that He was not teaching that there was no need of those things, only that the

needs would be supplied as they went, so that the responsibility did not rest upon their shoulders. His teaching was that when He sent His Men out they should take no thought about the material things, but only tend to their spiritual life. Later, when they returned, He continued His teaching along this line by asking, "**When I sent you forth without purse, and wallet, and shoes, lacked you anything? And they said, "Nothing."** (Luke 22:35) We may be poor as the world sees us, but we must never lose the dignity of the High Calling of our Office. Our needs are to be met by God, as He sees fit to use men.

We must not entertain the spirit that was on Judas. He could not bear to see Mary anoint the Lord with such costly oil, saying if it had been entrusted to him, he could have helped many of the poor. It is very likely that Judas was using some money in the treasury for himself. He had a perverted sense of values, because later he sold the Lord for thirty pieces of silver. We may be as frugal as we want in our own personal lives, but we need not be afraid to be extravagant in giving to the Lord and His people. Jesus did not rebuke Mary for her so called extravagance.

Peter and Judas were of different spirits. When many were being saved and added to the Church, Peter could well have increased his own bank account. The people were selling their possessions and giving to the common cause, but notice what Peter said to the crippled man at the Temple Gate, "**Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee; in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.**" (Acts 3:6)

In Acts 20:33 Paul said, "**I have coveted no man's silver of gold, or apparel.**" Writing to the Corinthians he asked, "**Did I commit a**

**sin in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I preached to you the Gospel of God FREELY.**" (Free of charge) (II Cor. 11:7)

Neither Paul, nor our Prophet, William Branham, adopted an independent attitude. They were both willing to accept financial help, and they both did so, as we see from the Message and the Scriptures. But, there was never a pull for money for themselves, only the teaching that the Church should support the Ministry. Every Christian, no matter how poor he may be, should always be a Giver. Most especially the ministers who may get so caught up in receiving that they forget their own part in giving. To receive without giving out, leads to stagnation. If we bear no financial responsibility for others, there will be but little entrusted to us. No matter how deep our own need, we must be concerned about the need of others and freely give.

Dear Christian people and Minister Brothers, if we hope to increase our income, then we must increase our output. "**Give and it shall be given unto you.**" (Luke 6:38) This is a Divine Law and we ignore it to our own hurt. We do not operate as the world operates. They save up to increase; we give out in order to increase. But, we never increase for the purpose of putting our treasure where, "**Moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal.**" (Mat. 6:19) We increase that we may put more and more into the work of the Lord, both in our own ministry and in the ministry of others. God's goal for His ministers is that we reach the place of putting all we are and all we have into the Gospel work, then, trust Him day by day.

God cannot fail to help those who put their trust in Him. It should be the goal of every Message Believer (Bride Member) to prove to

the world that prayer that resorts to GOD ONLY, will bring help in every crisis. God delights in seeing how far we will go in our trust, at times letting the circumstances worsen while we wait for Him to move. His special delight is in those who will not resort to paths of their own for deliverance. There is no danger of dishonoring Him by trusting Him fully. No man, who waits in Faith, waits in vain.

If we, being poor in the eyes of the world, can, by trusting GOD ONLY, be furnished with the means to carry on His work, it becomes a great witness to the unbelievers. It is out of our poverty that God chooses to show forth His riches. If we can only turn our eyes from our empty wallets to his bountiful Treasury, no work of His will go unfinished. It is His pleasure to use the poorest of His people to bring into full view His never ending supply of Finance. In so doing, the work is more easily seen to be of Him.

It is no wonder that some of our projects are crippled through lack of funds, because the main strategy is appealing to men rather than to God. The more pressing their needs, the more demanding they are of the people, and the more demanding they become the less the people give. This is human nature. It is a

program hatched up by the carnal mind and is doomed to fail. It is not God's way and He will not honor it. Though it would seem that some who resort to this are being honored, it behooves us to watch the final end of such. God may allow it for a time, but His Word that condemns it will not fail.

This writer once worked for the New Mexico State Police, and one of the appealing things about the job was that the State furnished all our needs. Transportation was furnished, and not only furnished, but maintained. We only needed to take the vehicle to the shop and the bill was paid. Our clothing and our weapons were furnished. When out of town on State business, all expenses were paid. There was insurance that covered not only the officers, but their families as well. If an officer was transferred to another district, the State paid for the move and helped find a new home. The point is that the financial burden of the work was carried by the State. The officers were free from financial worries. (As long as they lived within their means)

The workers of God work not for the State, nor for a worldly company, but for the Kingdom of God. In this great Heavenly Kingdom, the company pays all expenses. Food,

clothing, transportation, housing, and all health benefits are supplied by the company. The workers are relieved of all financial responsibilities. (As long as they live within their means) The Lord Jesus Christ is the Company Head and He writes the "Per diem" checks day by day, as needed. Some of our readers may have felt the security of working for an earthly company that cared for its workers in such a way.

Our Company Head, Jesus Christ, has given us full assurance in His workers Manuel, that all needs will be met for the workers that abide by Company rules. (The Holy Scriptures) An earthly company is, of course, limited in what it can do. Not so with our Heavenly Company. No need can arise that is not under His full control. To believe this, is to be delivered from financial responsibility. It is to be set free to do any and all work He may place before us. As we trust Him one day at a time. But remember, He does require that we turn all request into the One **"who knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask Him."** (Mat. 6:8) We are not to appeal to other members of the company! Amen.

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