

# Make Church a Part of Your Life

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

*"How much money would it take to make you happy"*

By Pastor Ronald T. Scheimo, CrossRoads Church

In John's third epistle, verse two we read, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth". We are told that this is a mandate from God assuring us that God wants us to be rich. Now most everyone wants to be rich so this has great appeal to us. A number of years ago a survey was taken in which the question was asked, "How much money would it take to make you happy?" The answer overwhelmingly was in essence, "more than I have now". We have tried to Christianize men's greed and make it legitimate by saying that that is what God wants for us.

In a recent radio broadcast, the speaker referred to the "law of the hundred-fold increase" and told people to give one dollar and expect 100 back because it was a law of God. This is better than a chain letter because the returns are guaranteed. However, when Jesus told the parable of the sower in Matthew 13 he said that the seed that fell into good ground brought forth thirtyfold, sixtyfold, and a hundredfold. The law then is the law of increase, not of hundredfold increase. Every farmer and gardener is familiar with the law of increase. A farmer does not sow a

bushel of wheat to get back a bushel of wheat but many times more than a bushel. Each time he sows and reaps the harvest will be different. Sometimes 30 bushels to the acre and sometimes more and sometimes less.

The qualifier in our opening verse is plainly spelled out

"as thy should prospereth". Material prosperity is linked to spiritual prosperity and like the old song about love and marriage said, "you can't have one without the other". God has made no law or promise to make us rich. Some have tried to make Solomon the example of God wanting us

to be rich and yet in the book of Ecclesiastes Solomon, in speaking about his great wealth, said that it was vanity and vexation of spirit. God has promised that He would supply all of our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19) and Jesus, in the sermon on the mount (Matthew 6) told us that God knew that we needed houses, clothing and food and He said, "seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you". John said in his first epistle, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the father is not in him." (1 John 2:15). The disciples were not rich in material goods but were prosperous in faith, love, compassion and health. The things that really make us prosperous are still the same. To have your health, to have love in your home, to have peace with God, and to love your fellow man and to have your needs supplied. These are the true riches. Paul said to Timothy that godliness with contentment is great gain. Let us have as first priority the seeking of spiritual or soul prosperity and we can trust God to take care of all the rest for He has promised to do so.

### Priceless



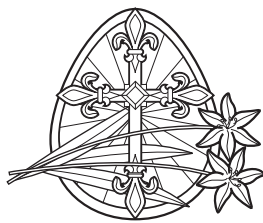
Do you have dreams of "making it big? There is something even more valuable than success: time spent with those you love or a hug when you need it the most. Some things are truly priceless....

Proverbs 17:6 says, "Grandchildren are the crown of the aged". Just when we need them most, we have grandchildren who know none of our faults...a new beginning...a new chance to "make it big." We can pass on to them our experience and wisdom, knowing that one day they will understand and pass it on to future generations. Isn't that a form of immortality?

Teach your grandchildren about the love of their Heavenly Father. Worship with them. Your presence in their lives is priceless.

Sunday James 4.1-17	Monday James 5.1-20	Tuesday Proverbs 8.1-36	Wednesday Proverbs 9.1-18	Thursday Proverbs 10.1-32	Friday Proverbs 16.1-33	Saturday Proverbs 25.1-28
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