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Do You Think "All the Church Ever Talks About Is Money"?*

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Recommended Citation
DO YOU THINK "ALL THE CHURCH EVER TALKS ABOUT IS MONEY!?"
/ Rom. 15:25-28

I. What do you think of this conversation?
A. With Don Glover.
   1. We were outside Room 6 El Capri Motel, Sikeston, Mo. & he said, "Dr. Jack Lewis taught us virtually every 20th Century problem the church has arisen out of how to use the money we take up every Sunday."
   2. Is this true - kitchens, orphan home, cooperation, church bldg., air conditioner, lawn fertilizer, pop at VBS, etc.?

B. Was it intended to be this way?
   1. Do you think the church talks about money too much?
   2. Did Jesus?
   3. What's your attitude toward the contribution?

C. Purpose of this lesson is to see Paul's attitude as the Holy Spirit recorded it.

II. To Paul the Contribution was Many Things.
A. It was an ambition.
   v. 25  'But now I go unto Jer. to min.
   1. It was a drive - a compulsion c him.

B. It was an adhesive of love.
   1. The Gentile Christians of Mac. & Achaia were giving to the Jewish Chr. in Jerusalem.
2. (a) We've argued so about whether it was one church or two that got it; whether all saints (& all were poor) or whether only the "poor of the saints" as it literally means, we've lost sight of bond of love & tie of affection Paul felt the contribution delivered.

2. He felt this gift would bring about a better understanding.

(a) Take a fellow you have trouble grasping to lunch!

3. Contribution was generous - "filled" - to glut one's desires.

4. Word for contribution is "fellowship". It means to jointly participate.
   Heb. 13:16 "But to do good & to comm.

5. After all, Christianity relates to human needs - it isn't all done in a meeting house!

6. What type of benevolent society are we today?

7. Do we see our spiritual benefits putting us under obligation to our benefactor?

8. If my spirit will not in gratitude acknowledge my debt, what type of person am I?

9. Giving and gladness should go together.

C. It was the payment of a debt. 

1. The debt was a spiritual - not a material one.
v. 27 "Their debtors they are. For if
2. He is saying if you minister to men in
spiritual matters, it is the receiver's
duty to minister to the preacher in
carnal matter.
(a) Carnal - Latin "body" - "flesh"(?)
(b) All my life heard charge, "preachers
are poor business men" - What of it -
they've got their minds on other things
it's your duty if their labors have blessed you, to take care of their
carnal needs.
3. Do you feel any moral debt toward old
preachers?
4. Gentiles owe much to Jews - salvation
is of them. John 4:22 what we worship for salvation is of the Jews
5. Incidentally, this "ministry" he uses
in v. 27 is "leitourgia" - same word
from which we get "liturgy".
D. It was "Fruit".
1. Paul said it was "sealed" (v.28) which
means ratified, assured.
(a) Are we sure today?
   1 Cor. 16:1-3 Now concerning the collect for the
   2 Cor. 9:12-15 Read
2. He says he's "performed" it - means
bring to an end, complete.
3. He hoped to come to them after discharging
this duty.
(a) Man proposes & God disposes - all for final good.

4. Note as pleasant as the Roman prospect looked, he must first discharge his Jerusalem obligation.

(a) Are we so conscientious about our work?

5. Rome was not a terminus but only a resting place as "on to Spain".

West End 3-22-70
Acid Test

Among the hardest things to do is trying to sound sick when you phone the boss at eight o'clock to tell him that you are.

Lab Course

Two farmers were talking about their sons, who were away at college.

"What's your boy going to be when he gets through school?" asked one man.

"He hasn't said," replied the second, "but, judging from the letters he writes home, I shouldn't be surprised if he turns out to be a professional fund-raiser."

Old Faceful

It's nice
"ALL THE CHURCH CARES ABOUT IS MONEY"

Have you ever heard that statement? If you are associated with a dead and do-nothing church then perhaps you haven't. But if the congregation you worship with sends missionaries, houses orphans, feeds the hungry, and clothes the needy then somebody occasionally complains: "All the church cares about is money.'

If the charge is true, it puts the church in bad company. The one indictment that can be consistently brought against every sordid segment of society is: "All they care about is money."

All the liquor industry cares about is money. That is a true statement, despite the fact that it is seldom said. Liquor interests have no regard for man's family. They don't care about accidents and mangled bodies caused by drinking. They do not care about "skid row" and the human lives left shattered.

All the tobacco companies care about is money. I know for sure they don't have much feeling for a breath of good clean air in a jetliner cabin. They don't care about stained fingers, lips, lungs, or perhaps even the cancer to which they may have contributed. They don't care about wasted budgets.

All the movie industry cares about is money. Not morals, not integrity or human dignity - just money. And before this list begins to sound like a medieval diatribe, let me hasten to add that far too much of the respected establishment - industry, businessmen, salesmen of all kinds - apparently care only about money. At least if one would judge by the cut-throat economic habits of our time.

Now what about the church? The church cares about the lost and dying. The church cares about the sick and underprivileged and discouraged. The church cares about the home and the community, about immorality and lawlessness.

The church must not care much about money because it gives away every penny it can get its hands on to advance the kingdom of God. Here's the only interest the church has in money; it is a form of energy, a kind of fuel which can be used to bless people spiritually.

The kind of man who says, "All the church cares about is money" is telling you more about himself than about the church. The church has absolutely no terminal interest whatsoever in money.

The church merely wants to assist the brethren by translating the root of the kinds of evil which the brethren can't take with them into treasures which moth and rust cannot destroy.

If you ever again hear anybody else make this statement, you will be prepared to set them straight.

William S. Banowsky
They held in their lifeless hands the riches of their fathers without inheriting the spirit which had created and improved that sacred patrimony. They read; they pray; they compile; but their languid souls seemed incapable of thought and action. A succession of patient disciples became in their term the dogmatic teachers of the next servile generation.

Edward Gibbon "The Fall and Decline of the Roman Empire"

Of some too sad an epitaph is written, "They died of too much self control."
Easter Sunday
Mar 28-29-
$4.00
250-
South Room