

# New Measure of Value

We've started 2022 taking a FRESH look at our relationship with our creator and Lord, God Almighty.

We all need a fresh start to life – literally!

- A new birth or beginning – a **New Life!**
- A new way to view the world – a **New Perspective!**
- A new meaning for personal existence – a **New Purpose!**

We also need *a new, fresh way of measuring true value.*

Let's talk about money!

(Crickets...)

Okay, let's make it a little more palatable.

Let me share a Biblical observation on MONEY.

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That's better... isn't it?

Now that I have your attention, I hope to keep it.

*But, if anything will steal away our attention, it would be the potential to acquire large sums of money.*

In that sentence alone there are several words that could be used in this message on *measuring true value in life*.

- Steal away our attention
- Potential
- Large sums of money

## Stealing Away Our ATTENTION

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To steal away attention implies that something other than money has your attention to begin with.

According to Forbes.com the top two things in life that people deeply long for are 1.) *happiness* and 2.) *money*.

People just don't know how to grasp happiness because they "don't understand exactly what will make them happy." And "they search outside themselves for happiness, i.e. in a job, a spouse, a title, a **paycheck**, and fancy house."

Not only is money mentioned in the first longing for most people regarding happiness, but money is also the second most desired thing in life, period!

The author of this article says "I've worked with millionaires, as well as people who earn mid-six figures and far, far less. Isn't it fascinating that no matter how much we earn, we somehow feel we never have enough?"<sup>i</sup>

Our short attention span is symptomatic of a lack of contentment.

For those of us who are followers of Christ we are committed to a Fresh, New Life in Christ and are living within a Fresh New Perspective with a revised sense of priority.

Our guiding principle is from the words of Jesus in **Matthew 6: 31-33**:<sup>ii</sup>

*"Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'<sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.<sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*

The Apostle Paul speaks of how we gain much more with an attitude of contentment:

*“... godliness with contentment is great gain,<sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.<sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.<sup>9</sup> But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”* **1 Timothy 6:6-10**

Paul says that some people have even *turned away from what we believe because they want to get more and more money (6:10b ERV)* instead of living meaningful lives in obedience to God, they squandered their lives *"trying to catch the wind"* (**Ecclesiastes 1:14**).

We've been stolen away from the path of godliness!

We all fall into trappings of getting what we need and then, before we know it, we now need more than we've gotten.

I'll admit it, it's nice to have things in the world, but our focus often shifts when the material things we get begin to capture our imagination for how much better life would be if we could just add \_\_\_\_\_. (You fill in your own desire.)

## Worldly Potential is not **GODLY** Gain.

*“Keep your lives free from the love of money. And be satisfied with what you have. God has said, ‘I will never leave you; I will never run away from you.’”* - **Hebrews 13:5 ERV**

Great potential is what I heard as I started out in the lighting business.

I was hired as a draftsman for a small lighting firm in Indianapolis while I was finishing up my Architectural degree in the mid-70's.

As I was working on a lighting layout for a client my boss would come by my station and tell others in the room, “John’s going to be my next best salesman!” My “potential” was “through the roof”, he’d say.

**I soon learned that there would be great sacrifice to realize that potential.**

It was all about dropping the moral compass, being clever in conversation, overly friendly and having the desire to climb a figurative ladder of success that anyone at any time could pull out from under me.

Remember:

- We’ve traded in our worldly life that had been molded to be like the rest of the devil’s puppets.
- We’ve received a life of peace and joy found only in the *Fresh – New Purpose* that God has poured into us through His Holy Spirit.

We have a new potential – TO BE LIKE JESUS in every way!

Money is good for the economy of this lifetime.

But it is not at the heart of God’s economy!

Large SUMS of money.

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Godly people can still be godly with large sums of money, but the responsibilities and temptations will be much greater.

What would you do with large sums of money?

Make that list right now.

After making the list, go back over it and categorize the items into two groups:

AN ETERNAL PURPOSE, and A TEMPORARY SOLUTION.

An eternal purpose could be defined as one that would show the love of God, effect their perspective on eternity and the life of Jesus Christ.

A temporary solution would benefit only a few for a short period of time and would leave no spiritual legacy.

The love of money is the enemy.

It defines you as a person, directs your decisions and leads you into a self-absorbing life full of scheming and deception – all to get richer and have an abundance of worldly, temporary goods.

One may say, “But wait, all I want is just a more comfortable lifestyle. Is there really any harm in that?”

### **Matthew 6: 31-33**

*“Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”*

### **1 Timothy 6:6-8**

*“... godliness with contentment is great gain, <sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.*

Remember, Jesus said, “I have come that you may have life and have it to the full!”  
**John 10:10 (NIV)**

### **Proverbs 3:5-6**

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

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<sup>i</sup> *The Top 8 Things People Desperately Desire but Can't Seem to Attain*, Kathy Caprino, senior contributor, [www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com) May 24, 2016.

<sup>ii</sup> All scripture texts are from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.