

Money & Honor

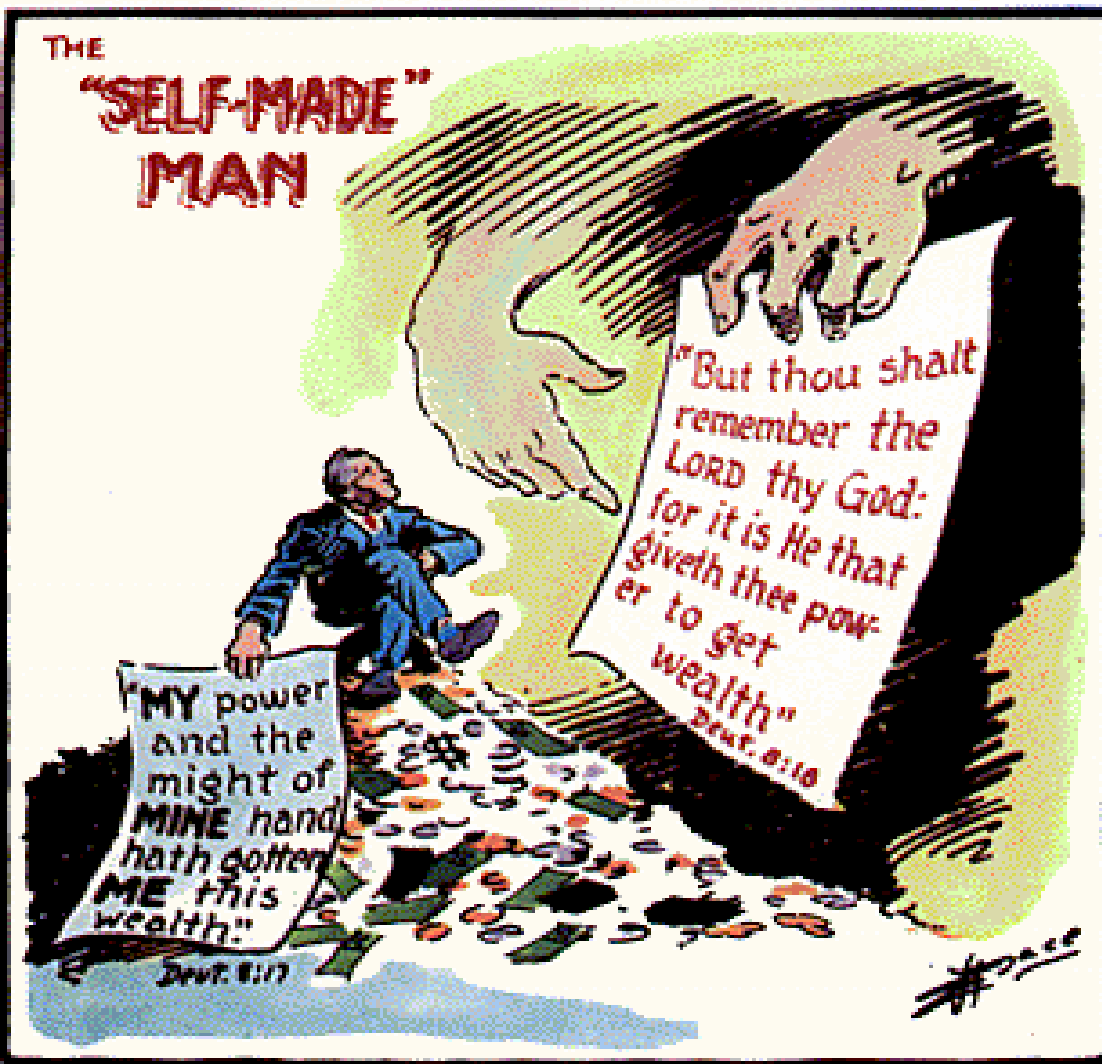
The decisions we make about money give insight to what we value.

Historical Perspective

- Irenaeus (130–202), Bishop (Elder) of Lyons. He is one of the first church fathers to freely quote the New Testament, in his masterwork, *Against Heresies*, 185. From that book...
- Therefore the offering of the Church, which the Lord directed to be offered in the whole world, is accounted a pure sacrifice with God, and is acceptable to Him, not that He needs a sacrifice from us, but because he who offers is himself honoured in his offering if his gift be accepted. By his offering, both honour and affection is shown to the King. And our Lord taught us to offer this in all simplicity and innocence (Matt. 5:23, 24). Therefore we must offer to God the firstfruits of His creation, as Moses said. Offerings are no longer offered by bondsmen, but by free men.... They [O.T. saints] offered their tithes; but those who have received liberty set apart everything they have for the Lord's use, cheerfully and freely giving them (2 Cor. 9:7), not as small things in the hope of greater, but like that poor widow, who put her whole livelihood into the treasury of God (Luke 21:4).

■ *Christian History : Money*. electronic ed. Carol Stream IL: Christianity Today, 1987; Published in electronic form by Logos Research Systems, 1996.

The Self-Made Man



WHAT ALL TOO OFTEN HE OVERLOOKS

Deuteronomy 8:11-18

- Polycarp 70?–156? Bishop of Smyrna, (a student of John & teacher of Irenaus)
- “If anyone does not refrain from the love of money, he will be defiled by idolatry and so be judged as if he were one of the heathen.”
 - *Christian History : Money II.* electronic ed. Carol Stream IL: Christianity Today, 1988; Published in electronic form by Logos Research Systems, 1996.

Be Content With Simple Things

- **1 Timothy 6:6-10** *"But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.*

For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. "

Put The Kingdom First

- Notice that Jesus' teaching about not worrying is the conclusion of choosing to serve God or Riches.
 - Matthew 6:24-34
- The Widow's Mites
 - Luke 21:1-4
- Barnabus vs. Ananias & Sapphira
 - Acts 4:32-5:4
- From Their Deep Poverty
 - 2Corinthians 8:1-7
- Dear Friends & Brothers in Christ
 - \$200 Support a month

The Firstfruits are God's

- We Show God Honor With The Firstfruits
 - Proverbs 3:9-10
- Abel understood this and honored God
 - Genesis 4:1-7
- Abraham understood this hundreds of years before the Law of Moses
 - Genesis 14:18-24
- But the children of Israel robbed God of His Firstfruits
 - Malachi 3:6-10

Plan For Sharing With The Poor

- Lend and expect nothing in return
 - Luke 6:34-36
- A tithe every third year for the poor
 - Deuteronomy 14:28-29
- Care for the poor
 - Deuteronomy 15:7-11
- Leave a portion for the poor
 - Leviticus 19:9-10
- He who gives will not lack
 - Proverbs 28:27
- Give to the poor ~ lend to the Lord
 - Proverbs 19:17