



## *Making a Profit*

*Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; just as I also please all men in all things, **not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many**, so that they may be saved.*

*1 Corinthians 10:30-33*

*It seems that since the dawn of time there has always been someone preaching a variant of “The Prosperity Gospel”, which boils down to the belief that a right relationship with God is visibly evidenced by an abundance of material blessings in this life. Then why is it that the biblical metaphors and usages of terms of commerce are most often associated with **spiritual** profits rather than earthly?*

In the opening quote of Paul to the Corinthians, he uses the word “profit” twice; first as a declaration that he doesn’t seek it personally, and second to qualify that he only seeks it for others. In this specific instance, it’s apparent that Paul is not even hinting at material things for this life, but the work of salvation to produce spiritual results both in the present life and the one to come.

One needs to go no further than the Sermon on the Mount to summarize Christ’s teaching on the possessions Believers should actively seek:

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*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; **for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***

*Matthew 6:19-21*

For the record, I'm unaware of any verse that categorically states it's wrong or a sin to have wealth in this life; but I'm acutely aware that the repeated biblical admonition is to make one's priority the attainment of *spiritual* wealth. So I'm perplexed when Christians embrace the false teaching of seeking material blessing in this life. It's probably tangible proof of a person's having lost touch with the Word of God and instead embracing the word of man.

There are a number of things that Scripture identifies as producing profit for Believers.

*How blessed is the man who finds **wisdom**  
And the man who gains **understanding**.  
For her profit is better than the profit of silver  
And her gain better than fine gold.*

*Proverbs 3:13-14*

*Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel,  
"I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit,  
Who leads you in **the way you should go.***

*Isaiah 48:17*

*how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house...For I did not shrink from declaring to you **the whole purpose of God.***

*Acts 20:20, 27*

*But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but **godliness** is profitable for all things, since it holds promise **for the present life and also for the life to come.***

*1 Timothy 4:7-8*

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*This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to **engage in good deeds**. These things are good and profitable for men.*

*Titus 3:8*

*All **Scripture** is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

*1 Timothy 3:16-17*

How “rich” would you be if you possessed all the above “profits”: Wisdom, knowing God’s plan for your life, knowing His whole will, possessing godliness, having an abundance of good deeds, and grounded in His Word? Does this sound like someone in need of anything?

All of the “for-profit” admonitions are the work of a right relationship with Christ, forsaking temporal personal comfort for its eternal counterpart. In fact, focusing on the attainment of riches in this life can come with a price that ultimately develops into a very bad deal.

*For **what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?** Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and **WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.***

*Matthew 16:26-27*

The true gospel of prosperity is the gospel of Christ calling us to a new life rooted in the future, forsaking the things of this present life. It’s embracing the promise that what is best for us—what will provide the greatest riches—only begins in this life and extends well into the next. It actually places the things of this life in their proper perspective.

*It is the Spirit who gives life; **the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.***

*John 6:63*

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And with all things that come into our possession we much choose how to employ them, knowing that whatever we've been given has been provided for the service of others, not for our own exclusive benefit.

*All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify. **Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.***

*1 Corinthians 10:23-24*

One of the indicators by which we can measure the quality of our spiritual walk is how we feel about our money and "things". When we become more concerned with others' welfare than our own, when our burden for others' spiritual welfare induces us to make personal sacrifices, when we care more for treasure in heaven than on earth, we are on the path of the true gospel of prosperity, and become rich indeed.

In His Love,

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