

IS IT TIME FOR THE CHURCH TO CHANGE?

SUMMER SERIES WITH RCC



Colossians 4:4-5

⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.



THE WEALTH GAP:

IS OUR STUFF A BLESSING OR CURSE?



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 - **How much is the individual/government responsible for?**
 - **Who should help the poor and when does helping actually hurt?**
 - **Is equality even the best goal?**

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- **And yet most Americans are extremely “rich”**

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- **OC residents, on average, make about \$30,000 more annually than other American households**

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- **And yet 13% of OC residents live at a poverty level**

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- **Relational connectedness, engaging in worthwhile church/charity work, and health are more important**

The Big Idea:

Our material possessions can be a blessing or curse depending on how we view and use them.

An Ancient Prayer with Timely Truth

Proverbs 30:7-9

⁷ Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: ⁸ Remove far from me falsehood and lying; **give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me,** ⁹ lest I be full and deny you and say, “Who is the LORD?” or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

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1 Timothy 6:17-19

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John Piper in *Desiring God*:

“There are three levels of how to live with things:

- 1) you can steal to get;
- 2) you can work to get; or
- 3) you can work to get in order to give.

Too many professing Christians live on level two...But the Bible pushes us relentlessly to level three...Enough for us; abundance for others to use on good works that alleviate spiritual and physical misery.”

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 - **There are future rewards for how we presently live**

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2 Corinthians 9:10-11

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food **will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.**

¹¹ You will be **enriched in every way to be generous in every way,** which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

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 - **Being generous flows from and models what Jesus did for us on the cross**

2 Corinthians 8:9

⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

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 - **Less feeling of freedom to live simply and radically sacrificial (ex: The Rich Young Ruler)**

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- **Take a step this week to help someone in need see and experience God's goodness**