

4. This poor widow hath cast in more than they all. *Luke 21:3*
5. He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none. *Lk 3:11*
6. In...their deep poverty...beyond their power...gave. *2 Cor. 8:2,3,5*
7. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working... that he may have to give to him that needeth. *Ephesians 4:28*

### To what extent should we obey Christ's commands?

1. For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not...to that he hath not. *2 Corinthians 8:12*
2. ...that your abundance may be a supply for their want...that there may be equality. *2 Corinthian 8:14*
3. And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. *Acts 2:45*
4. Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them...and distribution was made unto every man...as he had need. *Acts 4:34-35*
5. For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor. *2 Corinthians 8:9*
6. And having food and raiment, let us be therewith content. *1 Tim. 6:8*
7. As we have...opportunity, let us do good unto all men. *Gal. 6:10*
8. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. *2 Corinthians 9:7*

### What are the consequences for not obeying Christ's commands?

1. Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches...shall eat at your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. *James 5:1-3*
2. Thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and...Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. *Luke 16:25*
3. ...the deceitfulness of riches...choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. *Mark 4:19*
4. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away. *John 15:2*
5. Every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. *Luke 3:9*
6. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing. *Revelation 3:16-17*
7. Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire...for I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat. *Matthew 25:41-42*
8. And that servant, which knew his lord's will, ...neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. *Luke 12:47*

# The Commands of Christ on the use of Possessions

*"Teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you."*

**Matthew 28:20**

### The Bible's answers to questions such as:

- *What did Jesus really teach on the subject of economics?*
- *May a Christian save money for retirement or accumulate earthly wealth in other ways?*
- *May a man who has an abundance of earthly possessions keep his riches and still be a follower of Christ?*
- *Are earthly riches a blessing or a curse to God's people?*
- *If a Christian's earnings are in excess of his current needs, may he invest the excess? If so, where?*
- *Can a man truly say he has the love of God in him if he keeps for himself more than he needs while there are others in the world with less than they need?*

Roger Hertzler

## What are Christ's commands?

### 1. Matthew 6:19a

- **Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth.** *(King James Version)*
- **Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth.** *(New American Standard Bible)*
- **Make no store of wealth for yourselves on earth.** *(Bible in Basic English)*

1a. This night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself. *Luke 12:20-21*

1b. Take therefore no thought for the morrow. *Matthew 6:34*

1c. Beware of covetousness, for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth. *Luke 12:15*

1d. They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare...but thou, O man of God, flee these things. *1 Timothy 6:9, 11*

1e. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have. *Hebrews 13:5*

1f...covetousness, let it not be once named among you. *Ephesians 5:3*

1g. But seek ye first the kingdom of God. *Matthew 6:33*

### 2. Luke 12:33a

- **Sell that ye have, and give alms.** *(King James Version)*
- **Sell your possessions, and give to charity.** *(New American Standard Bible)*
- **Give what property you have in exchange for money, and give the money to the poor.** *(Bible in Basic English)*

2a. But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven. *Matthew 6:20*

2b. Give to every man that asketh thee. *Luke 6:30*

2c. And if any man sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. *Matthew 5:40*

2d. Lend, hoping for nothing again. *Luke 6:35*

2e. Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves. *Luke 16:9*

2f. As ye would that men should do to you, do ye...to them. *Luke 6:31*

2g. But rather give alms of such things as ye have. *Luke 11:41*

## What are the principles behind Christ's commands?

1. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. *Matthew 6:21*
2. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. *Luke 16:13*

3. For that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God. *Luke 16:15*
4. The love of money is the root of all evil. *1 Timothy 6:10*
5. He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. *Luke 4:18*
6. Blessed are you who are poor. *Luke 6:20*
7. Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom? *James 2:5*
8. ...and the rich he hath sent empty away. *Luke 1:53*
9. But woe unto you that are rich. *Luke 6:24*
10. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. *Matthew 19:24*
11. Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. *Luke 14:33*
12. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? *1 John 3:17*
13. Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. *Matthew 25:40*
14. My God shall supply all your need. *Philippians 4:19*

## How important is it to obey Christ's commands?

1. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. *John 15:14*
2. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man. *Matthew 7:24*
3. Why call ye me, Lord...and do not the things which I say? *Luke 6:46*
4. And hereby do we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. *1 John 2:3-4*
5. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me. *John 14:21*
6. In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that...obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. *2 Thesalonians 1:8*
7. If ye love me, keep my commandments. *John 14:15*
8. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. *Matthew 7:21*

## What classes of people should obey Christ's commands?

1. Charge them that are rich...that they be...ready to distribute. *1 Timothy 6:17-18*
2. Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor...he was very rich. *Luke 18:22-23*
3. Zacchaeus...he was rich...said...the half of my goods I give to the poor. *Luke 19:2,8*