

09/18/05 – “REMEMBER THE POOR”

One out of every seven verses in the Bible deals with money – May we have the right understanding and assess our attitude toward the poor
No poverty-free world this side of the Second Coming of the Lord - “*For the poor you always have with you; but you do not always have Me.*” Jhn 12:8
We give unto the Lord...it’s always to Him first and through Him we help meet the needs of the poor and those stricken by calamity
We give to love our neighbor and not to just cleanse our conscience – The story of the Good Samaritan...who is my neighbor?
A priest (minister) saw the man beaten and robbed and just kept walking... not my problem...he probably deserved it...no time, etc.
A Levite (Christian leader) did the same...kept walking...on his way to “a plane,” a meeting, church, etc.
It was the despised Samaritan who stopped, bandaged his wounds, took him to an inn, and covered all the expenses
Who’s my neighbor? A total stranger - Yes...people we don’t know personally – Yes – co-workers, friends and family - Yes
People are responsible for their actions but we are responsible to be redemptive towards people and consequences of the bad choices
We have a stewardship before God...to whom much is given much is expected...accountability before God to love our neighbor
Keep a good heart and remember, we are blessed to be a blessing – We are His witnesses in the world to the truth of the Gospel

TREATMENT OF THE POOR AND PROVERBS

“*He who despises his neighbor sins, but happy is he who is gracious to the poor.*” – Proverbs 14:21 – **Graciousness brings joy**
“*He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who is gracious to the needy honors Him.*” – Proverbs 14:31 – **Honors God**
“*He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; he who rejoices at calamity will not go unpunished.*” – Proverbs 17:5 – **God Sees**
“*He who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed.*” – Proverbs 19:17 – **God will give back**
“*What is desirable in a man is his kindness, and it is better to be a poor man than a liar.*” – Proverbs 19:22 - **Integrity over poverty**
There are worse things than being poor; such as being a liar – Regardless of circumstances, our integrity not for sale
“*He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be answered.*” – Proverbs 21:13 – **Law of sowing and reaping**
“*He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor.*” – Proverbs 22:9 - **Blessing of generosity**
“*Do not rob the poor because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate;*” Proverbs 22:22 – **Be honest and kindhearted**
“*He who gives to the poor will never want, but he who shuts his eyes will have many curses.*” Proverbs 28:27 – **Blessings over curses**
“*The righteous is concerned for the rights of the poor, the wicked does not understand such concern.*” – Proverbs 29:7 – **Burden for justice**
“*She extends her hand to the poor; and she stretches out her hands to the needy.*” – Proverbs 31:20 – **Personal involvement**
Issue is beyond politics or having all the answers to solve poverty – Key is having God’s heart in obedient response to the poor
Remember we are lending to the Lord out of what He’s already given us – Pray how to give of yourself and resources for His glory
The Lord is not asking us to work for Him; rather, He is asking us to work with Him...Lead on oh King Eternal!