

# **SERMON**

**DATE: Saturday/Sunday, October 13-14, 2018**

**SERIES TITLE: WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN NEEDS TO KNOW**

**SERMON TITLE: How to Use Money Wisely**

**SCRIPTURE: James 5:1-9**

[1] Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you.

[2] Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes.

[3] Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.

[4] Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.

[5] You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.

[6] You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

[7] Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.

[8] You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

[9] Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

**October 13-14, 2018**

**Title: How to Use Money Wisely**

1. Put money in it's place - don't let it be your god or even close to it.
  
2. Don't let your luxuries get out of hand.
  - Don't let your luxuries become necessities. This is a very subtle temptation.
  
3. Don't use money to oppress others or take advantage of them.
  - Use money to bless and not to curse.
  
4. Guard your heart in all things.
  - *Proverbs 4:23* Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.
  
  - Greed has very little to do with wealth or poverty.
  
  - Where your treasure is, there your heart, and your future, will be also.
  
5. Don't covet - be patient. The judge is coming.
  
6. Lay up treasure in heaven by using everything you have for the Kingdom of God.
  - *Matthew 6:19-21* "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also

# Lagniappe

Last week I shared with you a snapshot of the last twelve months at First Baptist Church. This has been a very good year in measurable statistics, with record average attendance in worship and Bible Study as well as new members. For all of this we are grateful.

Today I want to share about our giving. Giving, of course, matters because it fuels our ministries. For example, we have ministries such as Celebrate Recovery, Special Friends, Upward Recreation, Young at Heart, Women's Bible Study, and a number of others. All of these ministries reach out to the community. Most of these have at least 50% of participants who are not our members. Our regular giving funds these ministries.

You have heard many times that the first two years in the new expansion (2018 and 2019) will be challenging years for our giving. The buildings require increased expenses for debt repayment, property and casualty insurance, janitorial services, and utilities, as well as a number of smaller areas.

So far this year our giving is up significantly (about \$400,000) but not enough for us to "breathe a sigh of relief." If the giving continues to increase, we should be able to fund all of our ministries.

At our May Congregational Meeting, I went through our finances in detail. **We decided then that if everyone would increase their giving 5% (for example, if you give \$100, give \$105) we would cover our needs. It's amazing how small increases given by hundreds of people can make such a difference.**

We are close to finishing all of our expansion. While our Forward! Capital Campaign has been good, it is necessary that we complete the task. This campaign will continue through 2019 and if all the pledges are completed (about \$2.5 million) we should be able to finish the project.

Thank you for your generosity. You make the ministries of FBC possible!