

LESSON # 1: WHY GOD WANTS US TO PROSPER

Bible Study: Tuesday, February 26, 2013

Class Objective: Consider the bigger picture

Foundational Scripture:

3 John 2 states **“Beloved I pray that you may prosper in all things, and be in health, just as your soul prospers.”**

Selfish and self-centered vs God-centered.

(Luke 18:9-14) [Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: *“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

- a) God-centered thinking, it will cost billions to accomplish his goal of covering the earth with the gospel. Television, radio, bibles, books, tapes, and movies are some of the important tools of such a grand outreach.
- b) How will we send food, bedding, clothing, and medicines to those in need? Who will pay for airline tickets, mission teams to be deplored and workers for work to be done? Will corporate America, the mafia bankroll these undertakings?
- c) No. The money has to come from people committed to God’s plan. The money has to come from a prosperous church.

Example: Our first Mission trip was funded by a Christian family that had a heart for the African people.

- It cost eighteen thousand dollars (18,000.00) for airline tickets, hotel, food and supplies for one week of preaching the gospel.

- Selfish and self-center thinking is to believe that God put gold, diamonds and oil in the earth for His enemies rather than His own blood bought, blood-washed children.
- Many Christians have misunderstood God's original plan for their prosperity.
- When it comes to finances, we start seeing big houses, big luxury cars, things and more things.

GOD WANTS US TO PROSPER!

- a) From the very beginning, God's plan for His people was that they grow up spiritually and prosper in every area of living (Gen. 1:26-28).
- b) God had a two-fold objective in causing His people to prosper:
 - a. One that those who do not serve Him would see the tangible benefits and blessings that accrue to those who serve Him.
 - b. Two, that there be an abundance of meat in my storehouse (whether that meat be material or financial) to support the temple/church and those who took care of the temple/church (the priest/ministers), as well as provide for those who were unable to provide for themselves.

Note: God didn't have a bankrupt Temple / "House of God". The people had it to give.

A world that is hell-bound

- Three-fourths of the world's population has never heard the gospel.
- Moral decay and confusion that has taken place in the church in recent years.
- We, the body of Christ have far to go in understanding God's original purpose for prospering His children.

BACK to our AIM!

- a) Explore in depth what is God real purpose for God's prosperity.
- b) How to achieve it?
- c) What are we to do with it once we get it?
- d) Through His faithful children, God has, does and will reach out to a lost and dying world.
- e) We are all that God has through which to His mighty works in the earth.
- f) If we're all that God has, is he in trouble?

SCRIPTURAL STUDY -

- A GODLY POINT OF SATISFACTION – Matt 6:33
- OVERCOMING THE ENEMY
- PREREQUISITES FOR PROSPERING –Joshua 1:8
- GOD’S PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MISINFORMED – Psalms 1:1-3; Psalms 35:27
- GOD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO PROSPER – 3 John 2;