



WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

*Hello,
I welcome you to this new month and present to you September 2021 edition of Watchman's Trumpet. This month, our theme is "Profitability of rich saints"*

To be rich is to possess abundance of valuable possessions or money. It is to have a great deal of money or assets. Everyone, it seems, wants to be rich. However, whether or not a person can be rich and still be a good Christian has been a subject of debate for many years. Since Christians should find their answers in the Bible, that is what this edition of Watchman's Trumpet have done. It explores the reality and implication of being rich and divine expectation from those who are rich. There is much by precepts and examples in the Bible, which supports God desires for His people to prosper in all areas of life. The Lord delights in and desires the prosperity of His people. The Lord promise to bless his people but He also expects them to consider riches as a means of transport to a destination, as seeds to sow and resource to help achieve God ordained goals rather than the destination. The scriptures clearly presents the rich as a steward; God's steward and someone who at some point in life and in the end will have to render account of his stewardship to God. The lord on that day would judicially determine how profitable such rich

persons have been in the use of the riches and wealth that God gave them to fulfil His mandate.

This month's edition of Watchman's trumpet is written to assist Christians who are wealthy today and those who will be at some point in their lives to understand the huge responsibility that God place on the shoulders of rich believers. It is to help them become profitable and prepared for accountability.

Besides, every believer and Christ's follower are reassured of God's loving kindness and commitment to meet our needs so we need not be fretful or anxious. As you read, my prayer is that the Lord by His Spirit will apply its message to your life and specific situation in Jesus name. Welcome!

DIVINE PROSPERITY THROUGH GODLINESS IN BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT

*"Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men".
Proverbs 22:29*

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully". 2 Corinthians 9:6



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*"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting".
Galatians 6:7-9*

Christians are God's representatives on earth. In their places of employment and where they do their businesses they represent God. Our commitment to be good ambassadors of Heaven, diligence and hard work, faithfulness to our employers and customers will doubtlessly enhance our progress. Wherever we find ourselves, we must shine the Gospel light; work as unto the Lord and make God our business partner. These are the milestones to success and progress in whatever we lay our hand upon to do.

We shall consider three points:

1. Godly ethics in believers' business
2. Guiltless life of a believing employee
3. Great rewards for God-fearing business and employee's ethics

1. Godly ethics in believers' business

Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small. Thou shalt not have in thine house divers measures, a great and a small. But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the LORD thy God.” Deuteronomy 25:13-16

“The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.” Proverbs 21:6

“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid; Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:13-16

A believer who wanted God's blessing upon his business must be aware of his responsibilities to God and obligations to men and fulfill them religiously. He must love what God loves and hates what God hates. While praying for increase, enlargement, prosperity and blessing, he must understand the vices associated with the business he is doing and keep away from it. His/her maxim should be 'others may, I cannot!'

2. Guiltless life of a believing employee

“Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against

Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God”. Daniel 6:4-5

The ruin of many businesses and even secular ministries with attendant sacks and retrenchment of workers is the absence of faithfulness and conscientiousness at work. No one will want to sack a faithfully, effective value-added worker or staff. The Grace of God and the help of the Holy Spirit within us are to make us fruitful, profitable, effective value-added staff, worker or labourer wherever we find ourselves. The Lord is irrevocably committed to seeing to it that His faithful children get their entitlements wherever they work and much more for their Gospel exploits. If you have been faithful, your reward is coming. Very soon, you will celebrate.



3. Great rewards for God-fearing business and employee's ethics

“For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly”. Psalm 84:11

“O thou that art named the house of Jacob, is the spirit of the LORD straitened? are these his doings? do not my words do good to him that walketh uprightly?” Micah 2:7



There is no respecter of persons with God. God will owe no one. If we labour and serve single-heartedly, if we are faithful to God and men in our businesses and places of work, if we work and do our business 'as unto the Lord' the Lord will pay us back; nothing good will be withheld from us. God who promoted and honour Joseph, Mordecai and Daniel will remember you.





ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parable said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



Prayer Points - For August 2021

1. Thank God for the salvation of our souls and the hope of eternal life
2. Thank God for the resources He placed at our disposal for us to use in achieving His goals and purpose.
3. Pray that none of us will make god out of money or physical and material possession; pray that riches and material possession will not rule and ruin our lives.
4. Pray for believers who are in serious needs for the necessities of life, that God will be faithful to them and meet all their needs.
5. Pray that we may all value true riches; riches of faith, grace and godliness much more than silver and gold.
6. Pray for grace for sustained godliness and honesty in our employment and businesses.
7. Pray against devourers and wasters; pray that God will prosper whatever we lay our hand upon to do.
8. Pray for grace to be faithful stewards of God’s manifold blessings

“..... *men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*” **Luke 18:1**

May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!

Watchman Prayer Hour holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office in 78/80 Nepa (IBEDC) Building, Opposite U.I. Second Gate, Ibadan . Oyo - State. You can also follow us on any of our Social media platforms during the prayer session and send inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.

For more info on the Mission, log on to: www.watchmanoutreachmission.org

STEWARDSHIP OF RICH SAINTS

“The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, 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. When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible”. Mathew 19:20-26

“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works; ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life” 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

Many believers thought riches, wealth and saintliness are mutually exclusive but this is far from the truth. In fact, the opposite is the case. God delights in the prosperity of His

people. Jesus was rich but became poor so that through His poverty we might become rich 2Corinthians 8:9, God is the owner and custodian of true riches. He is willing to give those who come to Him to ask 1 Chronicles 29:11, 12, Romans 8:32, Mathew 6:33, Mathew 7:7-8. The scriptures provided blueprint for believers' achievement of prosperity Mathew 6:33, Luke 6:38, Proverbs 22:29, 10:4, 2 Corinthians 9:6. Prosperity from God provides opportunity to increase in good works and makes those who receive God's steward 1Timothy 6:17-19. God wanted His people to be rich and righteous, holy and happy.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. The promise of prosperity
2. The privileges of prospered saints
3. The perdition of proud, pernicious, prospered persons

1. Promise of prosperity

The Bible is a book that reveals God's will to man. His desire to prosper those who belong to He clearly documented in the Bible. The scriptures prescribes guidelines and pathway to true and lasting prosperity both spiritually and physically. The Bible revealed clearly that righteousness would bring prosperity Mathew 6:33. Faithfulness especially in giving will open windows in heaven through which God will pour His blessings upon the faithful Malachi 3:8-12, Luke 6:38, obedience and humility will bring promotion Deuteronomy 28:1-13, 1 Peter 5:6, diligence will make God our companion at work Proverbs 22:29, Romans 12:11 and finally, giving will multiply our investments Galatians 6:9, Luke 6:38. If we follow these paths, we will prosper and earn eternal reward.

Prospered and prosperous saints are privileged saints but they are also indictable saints if they fail to meet with God's standard of life and expectations in their use of such privileges Luke 12:48b. Privileged rich saints have opportunity to increase their stock of true riches. The Bible makes distinction between being rich by earthly estimation and being rich towards God. While earthly riches are denominated by use of nations' currencies, God in heaven value riches using spiritual barometer or parameters of faith, love, grace godliness and obedience. Privileged saints have better opportunities

to support and sponsor kingdom projects Exodus 36:3-3, increase in good works and selfless service Acts 9:36, make thanksgiving to God multiply 2 Corinthians 9:11; and be better prepared to receive and enjoy eternal memorial, reward and glory 1Timothy 6:18-19. These things must become the goals and focus of wealthy brethren if they desire to win God's approval.

2. Perdition of proud and pernicious prospered persons

James 5:1-6

Conversely, the scriptures clearly highlighted the besetting sins of rich men especially those who did not know God. They include hoarding, covetousness, pride, selfishness, spiritual destitution, surfeiting, reveling and worldliness, worries and anxiety, bribery, lawlessness and insensitivity to human suffering. True believers will do well to repent of these sins if present in their lives and avoid them like plagues. We must all remember that riches and earthly treasures do develop wings and can fly away. Besides every new cloth will one day turn to rags, every new car will one day turn up in a junk yard. The most beautiful house today will one day become dunghill or Museum piece; after that what will happen to the owner, where will a rich person who lived lives of utter indifference to God and things of eternal value spent eternity? We must be wise. The life and the end of people like Nabal (1 Samuel 25:5-11, 37-38), the rich in the parable of Jesus in Luke 12:13-15, and the rich man in the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) are clear signposts which God placed on the sand of time to warn rich believers and indeed all men that we are accountable to God for the kind of life we live, for our relationships with others and for our use of all resources that God placed at our disposal. My prayer is that none of us will be condemned on the last day but that the grace of God will multiply in our lives and help us to please Him at all time and receive His commendation.



CHRIST'S WARNING AGAINST COVETOUSNESS

“And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you? And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God” Luke 12:13-21.

Our text recorded a man's interruption of Christ's teaching session on the danger of hypocrisy and call to consistency, faithfulness and courage in a world that will not always be open-minded and warm-hearted towards Christian ideals. The Lord encouraged His audience that should they decide to stand for the truth and for God, Holy Spirit will stand by them, help and teach them. This was the point at which the man, with a request of an entirely

worldly concern interrupted the teaching session. He requested that Jesus should speak to his brother to share inheritance with him. Jesus told him that He was not a judge or arbitrator in civil matters. The Jewish system of justice have their protocols for handling such grievances. His mission was to preach the gospel to a lost world and help men obtain and keep secure heavenly inheritance not acquiring earthly one. Jesus annexed to this reprimand, the parable of the Rich Fool to warn His audience against greedy chase after worldly possessions and wealth. He warned them to keep clear of covetous tendencies because a man's life is not sustained by abundant possessions. This same warning is for every believer and all men today.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. The parable of the rich fool
2. Peril of covetousness
3. Profitable use of worldly possessions, its increase and gains

1. The parable of the rich fool

“And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God” Luke 12:19-21.

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out” 1 Timothy 6:6-7.

Jesus told His audience the story of how a wealthy man's large estate brought in greater harvest. The man appears lost about what to do with the increase. An idea or suggestion arose

within his mind to break down the silos that he has and build bigger ones. He assured himself that he still has many more years to live, so he would therefore take life easy, eat, drink, enjoy himself and be merry because of the plenty.

He believed that he has more than enough for many more years that he would live. God interrupted his daydream and told him that he is a fool and that that very night of project planning, before execution, his life would end. Who then will inherit the abundance that he planned to warehouse for himself? Jesus concluded that this will be the fate of all who stores up worldly things for themselves and are destitute of the things of God.

The Lord probably told this illustrative story because the man who invited him to adjudicate in inheritance matters has enough but wanted more.

2. Peril of covetousness

“And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” Luke 12:15.

“For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God” Ephesians 5:3.

“But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat” 1 Corinthians 5:11.

Covetousness violates the tenth commandment. It is described as idolatry Colossians 3:5, Ephesians 5:3. The scriptures strictly warned against it Hebrews 13:5. In several Bible passages, we are warned against covetousness and worldly-mindedness Psalm 39:5, Ecclesiastes 2:18, 19 Job 27:8, Psalm 52:7,

James 4:4. Ministers should hate covetousness Exodus 18:2, Acts 20:33 and believers should not keep company with church members or so-called believers who are covetous 1 Corinthians 5:11. We should not keep the company of church members who are worldly and secular-minded. Increasing covetousness is a sign to watch out for in the end-times 2 Timothy 3:2, 2 Peter 2:1-3. We learn from this parable that God frowns at hoarding and selfishness which are the leading vices evident in those who are greedy and many rich unconverted people.

God condemned this man to death for thinking that increased harvest and prosperity gave him license for self-indulgence, pride, idleness and gratification of sensual appetite; sins that are repulsive to God. The greatest lesson that emerged from this parable is that many things we call our own does not really belong to us. At best, they are given to us on loan to use for a lifetime.

Viewed from reality perspective, our wealth lasts no longer than we live. Once we die they are no longer our own; they are passed on or taken over by others. Another revelation from it is that our soul and life does not belong to us. It belongs to God and He may call us to account for our use of it at any time. We learn too that our possessing more does not guarantee our wellbeing or long life.

Wealth have limitations. Life is full of uncertainties that could bring the wealthiest in the world into great discomfort. Pains, sickness, quarrels and guilty conscience may deprive a man of ease and sleep who have so much to eat. The Lord defined as a fool anyone whose major preoccupation is increase in earthly possessions and are destitute in the

the things of God. Finally, it is clear from this story that sinful thoughts are as punishable before God as sinful actions, hence the necessity of sanctification and purity of heart.

3. Profitable use of worldly possessions and its increase or gains

“And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations”. **Luke 16:9.**

“The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself” **Proverbs 11:25.**

“He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again” **Proverbs 19:17.**

The scripture teaches clearly that God is the source of wealth, material blessings and prosperity. The land and its increase belong to God Hosea 2:8-9. It is He who gives men power to get wealth Deuteronomy 8:18 and we must acknowledge him every time we experience signs of increase and prosperity in life. The Lord does not want His children to see increase and wealth as a destination but a means to an end. Saints that desires to please God at all times and in all they do should understand the connection between increased resources and greater or higher responsibilities.

We have through it an opportunity to undertake greater responsibility in God's kingdom and in our service to humanity. The rich man should be known by the number of people he reaches with his riches.



Men are in the world on mission. We are here to fulfill divine purpose not please ourselves. We should connect whatever we are or have, especially after repentance and conversion from sin to the need to fulfill divine mandate. We should find out why we are here and fulfill our commission using the resources that God placed at our disposal.

God makes men great and He is the source of all increase. He expects that our increase and wealth should be used to build bridges of enduring earthly and eternal relationship Luke 16:9. It should facilitate our increase in good works and opportunity to help others 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Through it our opportunity to do good to all men especially those of the household of faith is enhanced. Galatians 6:6, 10. Being granted such opportunity and failure to use it is sin; that was the sin of the rich man in the parable. Hoarding and stinginess is sin James 5:2-5, Proverbs 11:24-26. Investment in God's interests and kingdom interests is saving into heaven's bank. Our reward is sure. We must like Jesus be focused on God at all times - increase or no increase and retain always a sense of mission which will help us avoid distraction such as the one the man who wanted Christ to mediate on inheritance matters tried to create.

“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works; ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life”

1 Timothy 6:17-19

GOD'S COMMITMENT TO MEET BELIEVERS' NEEDS

“And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment” Luke 12:22-23.

The scripture verses that preceded our text recorded Christ's reprimand of a man who interrupted His teaching session to request that He should use His spiritual authority to help him increase his personal wealth and possession by arbitrating in inheritance matters. The reprimand came through the story of a rich man who got the death penalty from God for hoarding his surplus instead of using it to promote God's interests and helping others. The Lord through the parable taught clearly that abundant goods and great profit does not automatically translate into survival or sustenance for many years. There are uncertainties in life and variables that could make life to abruptly end only known to God. Those whose treasures are locked up inside earth's Bank vaults or warehouses and have no treasure laid up in heaven are foolish.

So that the interruption and distraction does not negatively affect His twelve disciples who have forsaken all to follow Him, the Lord turned to them to reassure them. His reassuring words and teaching form the focus of this message.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Distraction by hearts set on worldly material pursuits
2. Consideration that calms fretting hearts and minds
3. God's care for consecrated believers

1. Distraction by hearts set on worldly material pursuits

“For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; ...” 2 Timothy 4:10

Following Christ's teaching and warning against covetousness, the Lord turned to His disciples and emphasized the need to implicitly trust God for their daily sustenance. This reassurance probably came from a background in which these disciples have just listened to inheritance related requests. They may began wondering what the future holds in stock for them who have forsaken all.

It is possible for any believer to be distracted in the same circumstance. Such distraction may incline us towards self-help, self-management, dishonesty and cutting corners with dire consequences. Yielding to such temptation may disconnect us from God and from heaven's resources for overcoming life's challenges. We should be watchful, careful and prayerful.

2. Consideration that calms fretting hearts and minds

“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”

The Lord admonished His disciples not to allow preoccupation with what to eat and wear to distract them from fulfilling their purpose in life. The tendency is strong in life for possessors of great wealth and abundance of material things to fret about losing them. On the other hand, the poor fret too about where their next meal will come from. Both way, their rests and peace is disturbed and their minds disquieted. Ravens do not sow or reap, they do not have storage houses, yet God consistently and continuously feeds them. Lilies do not spin or sow clothes, yet they are clothed with beautifully arrays of living cells more awesome and requiring more intricate production and weaving than all the clothes in Solomon's wardrobe. We must wean ourselves from fears, cares and worries by consideration of God's care for lesser creatures.



3. God's care for consecrated believers

“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” Philippians 4: 19.

We must wean ourselves from overwhelming dependence on physical things, seek and secure emotional stability by an anchor of faith in God and by consistent fellowship with Him. Whenever temptation comes to fret, the first question we should ask ourselves is whether God is worthy of our trust or not. The answer will calm our troubled mind.

The names and attributes of God described whom He is. What He has done in the past will encourage us to trust Him. We should reflect on what He has done for us too and for others including what He is doing right now. We must connect it with the fact that God has not and will never change. This consideration will reinforce our conviction that God is trustworthy.

We are enjoined to cast our cares upon Him. He cares and will care for us. We should convert our worries to prayer points. If we do this with all sincerity and in faith, Holy Spirit will take over in our hearts and give us assurance, peace and rest. We keep this peace by keeping our minds focused on God and on His promises not our problems. We can do that right now. Like the disciples, those who have forsaken all to follow Christ are assured of hundredfold returns on investment in this life and eternal life in the world to come. If we ever come to a point in our lives that we have nothing to hold on to except God, we will discover that God is sufficient.



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MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

JOHN WINTHROP
1588-1649



He was aboard the Arbella. They were fleeing persecution because of their beliefs that they faced in England during the reign of King Charles 1. In his sermon entitled “*A Model of Christian Charity*” delivered aboard the ship, he implored the colonists to live honorably and piously when they get to their destination and new home.

He devoted over 20 years of his life to building the Massachusetts Colony in line with these ideals and with maximum cooperation from his fellow colonists help in establishing a godly society. Between 1629 and his death in 1649, he served 18 annual terms as governor or lieutenant governor.

John Winthrop's wife was Mary Forth whom he married on the 16 April 1605. The couple went on to have five children together. Forth died in 1615, and he married Thomasine Clopton who died in childbirth in December 1616. His third wife was Margaret Tyndal; they wed on the 29 April 1618. Tyndal died in Boston, Massachusetts on the 14 June 1647 and Winthrop married his fourth wife, Martha Rainsborough in 1648. Winthrop himself died on 26 March 1649. He was buried in the King's Chapel graveyard, Boston.

The journal he maintained throughout his time in the colonies has been a primary source of the history of early Massachusetts in the United States.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

“I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.”

Luke 10:19 (NIV)

On a small boat bobbing on the North Atlantic Ocean in the spring of 1630, a bearded man with a long thin face rose to speak. He addressed a group of people who, like him, had left behind home, friends, and family for an unknown world called New England. The man spoke from his heart and eloquently shared the vision that united them and had brought them to this place. He reminded his fellow travelers that they had left their home in England, not for riches or their own glory, but for the glory of God. They had left to establish a people devoted to the service of God and to model for the entire world a people that lived in a holy covenant with their God. The travelers were to form a “*city on a hill*.” For the people to fulfill this daunting task, he told his listeners,

“We must love brotherly without dissimulation; we must love one another with a pure heart fervently. We must bear one another's burdens. We must delight in each other, make one another's condition our own, rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together, always having before our eyes our Commission and Community in this work, as members of the same body”.

The man was **John Winthrop**.

Born in Edwardstone, Suffolk, England on January 22, 1588, John's parents were wealthy. His father, Adam Winthrop, was a lawyer and a landowner who also ran his own textile business. John's mother, Anne Winthrop, also hailed from a rich family of landowners. John was raised with three sisters. Winthrop attended Trinity College. He studied law and received legal training at Gray's Inn. He served as an attorney on the Court of Wards and Liveries from 1627-1629. He was rising in English legal circles when he decided to settle in America.

In 1630, John Winthrop was in charge of a fleet of 11 ships and 700 passengers who departed England for the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

SONG OF THE MONTH

I AM A MILLIONAIRE

1. I am now a child of God
I've been washed in Jesus' blood
Making me an heir
To wealth beyond compare
So while here I press along
Daily this shall be my song
I'm a happy millionaire
Chorus
I'm a millionaire I'm a millionaire
My Father is rich in houses
And lands and I'm His heir I am His heir
I'm a millionaire I'm a millionaire
I'm a happy millionaire
2. I had rather serve my Lord
Feast upon His holy Word
Than to own the world
With all its jewels rare
By His Spirit I am led
And on milk and honey fed
I'm a happy millionaire
3. Lord I'd rather worship Thee
With the people who are free
Than the pleasures of this world
A season share
For my Father is the King
And His praise I'll ever sing
I'm a happy millionaire
4. Since salvation now is mine
For the Lord I'll shout and shine
Tho' I have to go thru life
On meager fare
Rich in grace beyond recall
For my Father owns it all
I'm a happy millionaire

Authors: Adger M. Pace and W.P. Jay

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