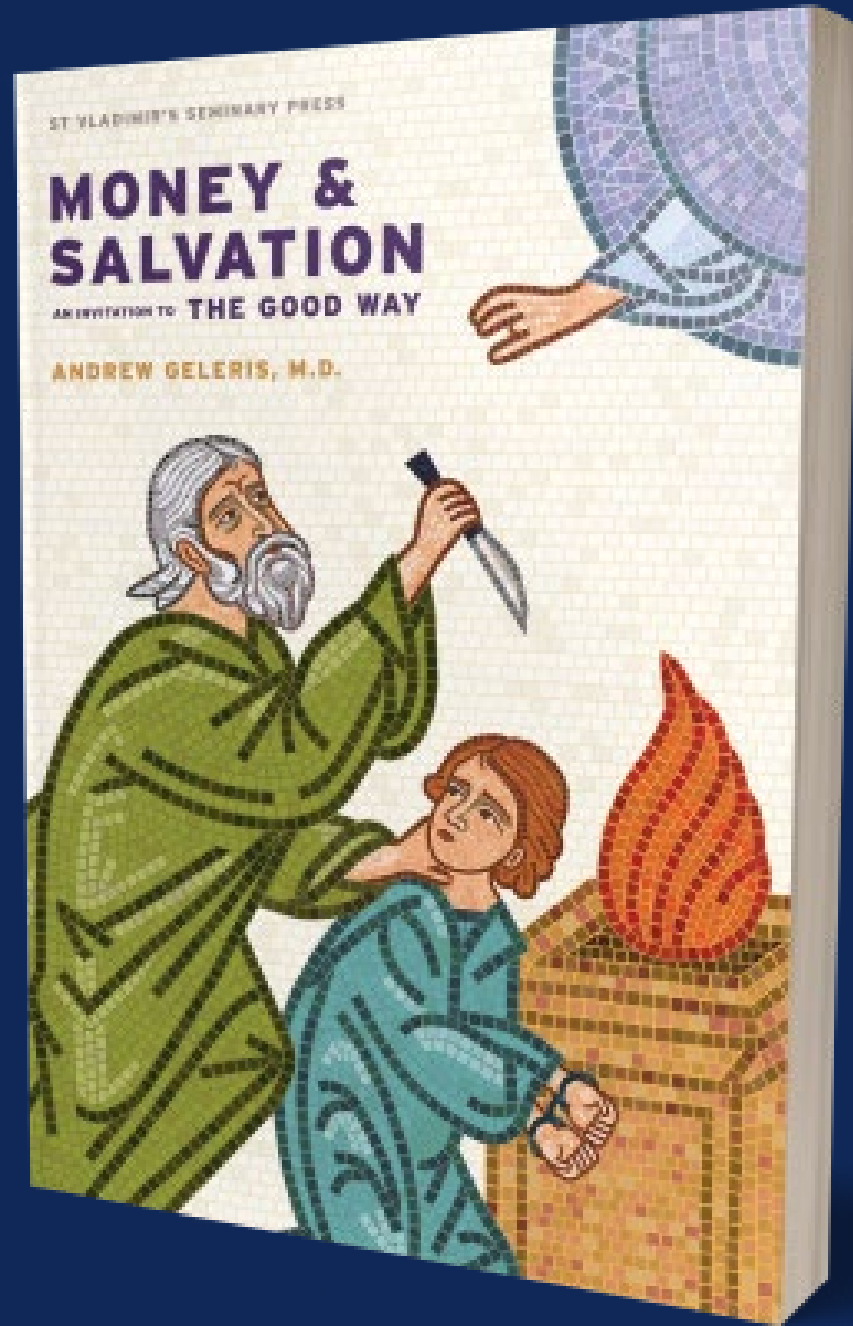
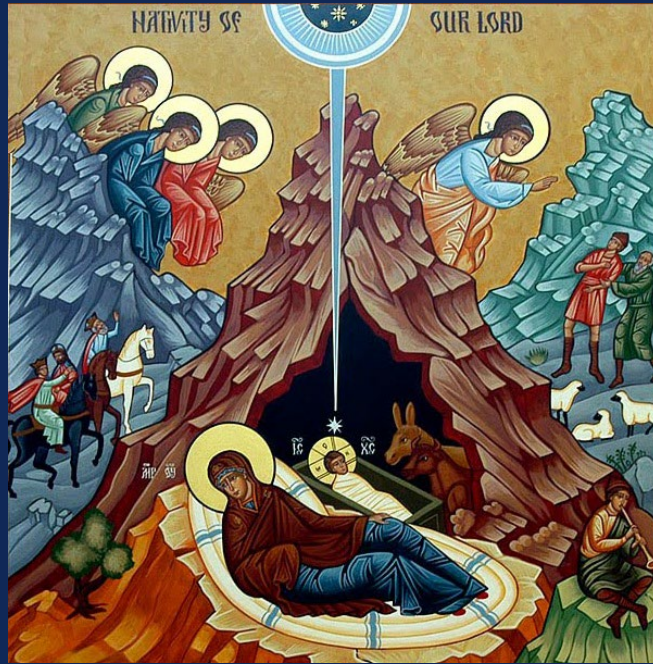


MONEY & SALVATION



SALVATION



2,172 VERSES

“Scripture is saturated with teaching on possessions...In terms of the number of verses on possessions, this topic is mentioned in Scripture more than any other: three times more than love, seventy times more than prayer, and eight times more than belief. About 15 percent of God’s word (2,172 verses) deals with possessions.”

Wesley K. Wilmer, ed. *A Revolution in Generosity: Transforming Stewards to Be Rich toward God* (Chicago: Moody, 2008), 26-27.



PRAYER, FASTING, & ALMSGIVING

- What is Prayer?
- What is Fasting?
- What is Almsgiving?

IT IS VERY EASY TO MISS THE POINT OF SUCH PRACTICES. THE PURPOSE OF THESE EFFORTS IS NOT SIMPLY TO DO WHAT IS EXPECTED OF US, BUT TO ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE WEANED FROM OUR DEPENDENCY ON EVERYTHING THAT MIGHT SEPARATE US FROM GOD. NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE INHERENTLY BAD, OR BECAUSE OUR BODY NEEDS DISCIPLINE (IT'S ACTUALLY OUR MINDS THAT NEED DISCIPLINE), BUT THROUGH BODILY PRACTICES. CONSIDER HOW OFTEN WE SAY TO OURSELVES, 'I CAN'T DO ANYTHING IN THE MORNING UNTIL I'VE HAD MY CUP OF COFFEE.' IF THAT IS THE CASE, THEN COFFEE HAS BECOME MY GOD, MY IDOL. IN REALITY, I CAN DO WITHOUT THAT COFFEE; MY BODY DOESN'T ACTUALLY NEED IT. THE PROBLEM LIES NOT IN THE FOOD ITSELF, BUT IN HOW WE RELATE TO IT. FOOD, OF COURSE, IS NECESSARY FOR OUR SURVIVAL. HOWEVER, WE OFTEN FIND OURSELVES LIVING TO EAT RATHER THAN EATING TO LIVE IN THE WAY GOD INTENDS—FOR HIMSELF, FOR OUR NEIGHBOR, AND FOR THE KINGDOM.

Fr. John Behr

PRAYER, FASTING, & ALMSGIVING

- What is Prayer?
- What is Fasting?
- What is Almsgiving?

MATTHEW 6

- 3 verses address fasting
- 11 verses address prayer
- 20 verses address finances

LUKE 14:12-13

He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

LUKE 12: 16-21

And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

LUKE 3:10-14

And the multitudes asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than is appointed you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Rob no one by violence or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

LUKE 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."



**FOR WHERE YOUR
TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR
HEART WILL BE ALSO**

Matthew 6:21

**SCRIPTURE CONSISTENTLY
REMINDS US THAT IF CHRIST IS
NOT FIRST IN THE USE OF OUR
MONEY, HE IS NOT FIRST IN OUR
LIVES. OUR USE OF POSSESSIONS
DEMONSTRATES MATERIALLY OUR
SPIRITUAL STATUS."**

Wesley Wilmer

ALMSGIVING & SALVATION

ἐλεημοσύνη

This Greek word occurs eleven times in the New Testament usually translated as "alms" or as "charitable deed"

ALMS

Middle English

- Almesse
- Almes

Latin

- eleemosyna

Greek

- ἑλεημοσύνη
- ἐλεήμων
- ἔλεος

**THE GREEK WORD ELEEMOSYNE,
OFTEN TRANSLATED AS 'ALMS' OR
'THANKSGIVING CAN DENOTE
MONETARY OR OTHER MATERIAL
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE POOR OR,
MORE BROADLY, ELEEMOSYNE CAN
REFER TO ATTITUDES OR ACTIONS OF
MERCY"**

David Downs



**ALMSGIVING CAN BE
TRANSLATED 'MERCIFUL
GIVING'**

David Downs

κύριε, ἐλέησον



MATHEW 25:34-36

Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'

**THE RICH EXIST FOR THE
SAKE OF THE POOR. THE
POOR EXIST FOR THE
SALVATION OF THE RICH**

EFFECT OF MERCY GIVING

1. Theosis

2. Love

**MERCY AND GOOD DEEDS ARE WORKS
GOD LOVES; THEY DIVINIZE THOSE
WHO PRACTICE THEM AND IMPRESS
THEM INTO THE LIKENESS OF
GOODNESS, THAT THEY MAY BECOME
THE IMAGE OF THE PRIMORDIAL
BEING**

St. Gregory of Nyssa

**“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME,
BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO
PREACH GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR. HE
HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO
THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERING OF SIGHT
TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE
WHO ARE OPPRESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE
ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.”**

Luke 4:18-19

ALMSGIVING LEADS US TO SALVATION

- "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5.8)
- Almsgiving does not change God's heart toward us, it changes our hearts toward Him

GOD'S LOVE

- Everyone's experience of God's love is unique
- Heaven and Hell are spoken about in terms of the experience of God's love
- "The love of God will be an intolerable torment for those who have not acquired it within themselves." Vladimir Lossky

**THOSE WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN
GEHENNA WILL BE CHASTISED WITH
THE SCOURGE OF LOVE...IT IS NOT
RIGHT TO SAY THAT THEY SINNERS IN
HELL ARE DEPRIVED OF THE LOVE OF
GOD. BUT LOVE ACTS IN TWO
DIFFERENT WAYS, AS SUFFERING IN
THE REPROVED, AND AS JOY IN THE
BLESSED.**

**FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP,
CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD
WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED
BEFOREHAND, THAT WE SHOULD WALK
IN THEM."**

Ephesians 2:10