## Ecclesiastes 10:19: "A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh the heart merry: but money answerest all things"

The first (2) statements from Solomon are easily understood; we've all been to feasts when there was laughter/celebration. There's nothing wrong with a feast. Abraham made a "great feast" after Isaac was born; the Jews made feasts in every province; Esther 8:15-17, Jesus @ the marriage feast.

But, we must be very careful children of God, for in a fallen world there is the temptation of feasting without moderation and drunkenness from wine, when lawful pleasures become inordinate and sinful.

Consider Nabal; God had greatly blessed him with riches, flocks, and a great household! Do you remember his great feast? It was a good thing and a good day for Nabal and his house.

But when Nabal became drunk with wine, when he over-feasted/drank excessively, and then had an opportunity "with his plenty and with his feast" to "ANSWER THE NEED" of David and his men, he refused.

David and his men actually served and protected Nabal and his property. Nabal could have showed kindness and answered David's need with his plenty; but he refused to help David. You get a "pretty good" idea of what Nabal thought of his wealth! <u>1 Samuel 25:5-11</u>

## From feasts and wine to "money answering all things"

Every one of us need money to survive in this world. We go to our daily labors to earn our wages to feed and provide for our families. The getting of wealth and money by labor is a blessing from the Lord!

<u>Proverbs 14:23: "In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury"</u>

We need money to fuel our cars, (feed our horses), we need it to buy food, pay our debts and bills, maintain our homes, and the list goes on. In this regard, it answers all these things!

Christian: In addition to laboring to pay for your needs, God will give you opportunities to be generous, to willingly give (of your money) to bless others, and to give to the Lord of that which you have labored for and earned in the world.

Understand...the way that you think about money, and YOUR dealings with YOUR money & riches in the world will give a good indication of where YOUR heart and affections reside. What you do with YOUR money in YOUR life, will ANSWER for you, and paint a picture of the treasure of your heart and the world that you love!

## YES: The dangers of money are much like the dangers of feasts and wine:

Feasts and the use of wine are lawful pleasures in moderation, but overindulgence and excess in either of them and they become sinful; and so it is no different with the GETTING of money and riches. We all need money, and yet, there is a great danger of being bewitched and deceived by it, and falling in love with it. 1 Timothy 6:6-11

Brethren, an inordinate desire for money may cause us to be dishonest in matters of money, even to the point of stealing it: *Ephesians 4:28*.

Remember **Gehazi**, Elisha's servant, because he loved money and saw an opportunity, so he secretly followed after Naaman and lied to him, using Elisha's name; he told Naaman that Elisha sent him for a talent of silver and (2 two) changes of clothes when he had not sent him.

<u>Judas</u> betrayed the Lord because he loved money! Be careful beloved of sins associated with money.

Great riches may come to you, and God will bless us when we work hard, and, we are to be wise with our money, but we are not to labor to be rich.

Proverbs 23:4-5

## So how does "money answer all things" for the Christian?

I already alluded to HOW MONEY ANSWERS for you. Your relationship to money & riches in the world give a very good indication of where your heart and affections reside.

How you work for...and handle money will ANSWER for you! It will testify and bear witness about you, and show what is in your heart.

<u>It is in this regard that money answereth all things!</u> For the deepest <u>affections of a person's heart are revealed by what that person loves.</u>

The child of God loves Christ and uses his wealth and money in this world lawfully, knowing that earthly money can never pay the debt of his sin, nor the ransom of his soul.

1 Peter 1:18-20, 1 Corinthians 6:20, Psalm 49:6-20

Simon the Sorcerer tried to pay the Apostles money that he might be given the Holy Ghost and the power of God. <u>Acts 8:18-23</u>

The true child of God "knows full well" that money and earthly riches "cannot answer" matters of the soul in the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life. True righteousness cannot be purchased with wealth and riches! <u>Proverbs</u> 10:2, 11:4

Money is really involved in every facet of my life; the sanctification of my heart and my love to Christ is seen in how I earn money, how I spend money, how I save money, and how I give of my money to help others.

It is in this regard that money answereth all things.