

# The Rich Young Christian

Matthew 19:16-22



# Christians and Capitalism

- The Bible assumes its existence (2 Kgs. 6:25; 7:1, 16, 18).
- The rights of private property are assumed (Ex. 20:15, 17; Deut. 27:17).
- Self-interest is both assumed and appealed to throughout scripture (Deut. 30:19; Eph. 5:29; 6:1-3; Matt. 10:42).
- All of this is balanced with ultimate self-interest (Matt. 16:26).
- The profit motive in particular is presented favorably (Prov. 31:18; Jas. 4:13-15).
- This is in contrast with greed which is the root of many sins (1 Tim. 6:10; 2 Pet. 2:3).
- Greed is actually more costly in a free society (Prov. 11:6; 13:11; 28:8; Lev. 19:35-36).



# The Blessing of Wealth

- Wealth is often one of the promised blessings of God (Deut. 8:18; 2 Chron. 1:11-12; Prov. 10:22; 22:4).
- Proverbs connects wisdom, righteousness, and wealth (Prov. 8:18, 21; 13:11, 22; 14:24; 15:6).
- It gives instruction on how to gain, keep, and pass on wealth (Prov. 10:4; 21:17).



# The Dangers of Wealth

- The warnings about wealth far outweigh the words about blessings (Deut. 8:17-18).
- The pull of wealth is so very powerful (Matt. 6:19-24).
- Let's consider the rich young ruler (Matt. 19:16-22).
- Now consider Luke 12:33 and 14:33.
- The sin is inside out and not outside in (Matt. 15:18).

