

Intro: (Oprah Winfrey and Andrew Carnegie)

1. Our Spiritual Poverty without the gospel.

Acts 8:7 (HCSB)

⁷For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed, and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.

Romans 1:28-32 (HCSB)

²⁸And because they did not think it worthwhile to have God in their knowledge, God delivered them over to a worthless mind to do what is morally wrong.

²⁹They are filled with all unrighteousness, evil, greed, and wickedness. They are full of envy, murder, disputes, deceit, and malice. They are gossips,

³⁰slanderers, God-haters, arrogant, proud, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

³¹undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, and unmerciful.

³²Although they know full well God's just sentence—that those who practice such things deserve to die—they not only do them, but even applaud others who practice them.

Romans 2:11-12 (HCSB)

¹¹There is no favoritism with God.

¹²All those who sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all those who sinned under the law will be judged by the law.

Ephesians 2:1-3 (HCSB)

¹And you were dead in your trespasses and sins

²in which you previously walked according to this worldly age, according to the ruler of the atmospheric domain, the spirit now working in the disobedient.

³We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and by nature we were children under wrath, as the others were also.

2. Those Who Try To Financially Profit from the gospel. = Profiteers.

Simon - Acts 8:9-11 (HCSB)

⁹A man named Simon had previously practiced sorcery in that city and astounded the Samaritan people, while claiming to be somebody great.

¹⁰They all paid attention to him, from the least of them to the greatest, and they said, "This man is called the Great Power of God!"

¹¹They were attentive to him because he had astounded them with his sorceries for a long time.

Acts 8:18-24 (HCSB)

¹⁸When Simon saw that the Holy Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,

¹⁹ saying, “Give me this power too, so that anyone I lay hands on may receive the Holy Spirit.”

²⁰ But Peter told him, “May your silver be destroyed with you, because you thought the gift of God could be obtained with money!

²¹ You have no part or share in this matter, because your heart is not right before God.

²² Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.

²³ For I see you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.”

²⁴ “Please pray to the Lord for me,” Simon replied, “so that nothing you have said may happen to me.”

- **Prestige (awed and amazed people)**
- **Pride (boasted)**
- **Power**
- **Position (followed for a long time)**
- **Purchase Attempted**
- **Perish (money and you)**
- **Point (Heart of the issue)**
- **Pray (Only consequences, not repentance or change)**

Balaam in OT, Numbers 22-24 (Talking donkey in 22:23-34)

2 Peter 2:15 (HCSB)

¹⁵ By abandoning the straight path, they have gone astray and have followed the path of Balaam, the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness,

Jude 1:11 (HCSB)

¹¹ Woe to them! For they have traveled in the way of Cain, have abandoned themselves to the error of Balaam for profit, and have perished in Korah’s rebellion.

Revelation 2:14 (HCSB)

¹⁴ But I have a few things against you. You have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to place a stumbling block in front of the sons of Israel: to eat meat sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality.

Numbers 31:16 (HCSB)

¹⁶ “Yet they are the ones who, at Balaam’s advice, incited the Israelites to unfaithfulness against the Lord in the Peor incident, so that the plague came against the Lord’s community.

Beware of modern gospel profiteers!

3. Our Spiritual Prosperity In The Gospel.

Acts 8:8 (HCSB)

⁸ So there was **great joy** in that city.

Acts 8:12 (HCSB)

¹² But when they **believed** Philip, as he proclaimed the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were **baptized**.

Acts 8:14-17 (HCSB)

¹⁴ When the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had welcomed God's message, they sent Peter and John to them.

¹⁵ After they went down there, they prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

¹⁶ For He had not yet come down on any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received **the Holy Spirit**.

Ephesians 1:3 (HCSB)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, in Christ**;

Ephesians 2:4-10 (HCSB)

⁴ But God, who is abundant in mercy, because of His great love that He had for us,

⁵ **made us alive** with the Messiah even though we were dead in trespasses. By grace you are saved!

⁶ He also **raised us up with Him and seated us** with Him in the heavens, in Christ Jesus,

⁷ so that in the coming ages **He might display the immeasurable riches of His grace** in [His] kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For **by grace you are saved through faith**, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—

⁹ not from works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰ For we are His creation—**created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them.

Invitation: Not for physical riches with which God may or may not entrust you for a little while; but with fabulous spiritual blessings that will last forever. The poorest saved man or woman or child, is far wealthier than the richest lost person.