



Cafeteria Christianity: Week 1 — “Prosperity”

CONNECT: If you won a million dollars tomorrow and you had to spend it on something fun, what would you buy? (No donating, investing, paying off debt, etc.) On the flip side, what would you do with it if you had to give it all away?

GROW:

1. Scott talked in his sermon about the concept of the “prosperity gospel”—the idea that if you are good enough in the eyes of God, you won’t suffer and will prosper in health and finances.
 - a. Why do you think this type of teaching is popular in American churches today?
 - b. How does this teaching parallel the teachings of other world religions?
 - c. What is the problem with this type of teaching?
2. **Read Luke 9:58.** Under the model of the prosperity gospel, what would Jesus’ life say about His level of success?
3. **Read Matthew 6:19-24.**
 - a. In what ways does our culture worship money?
 - b. Worship often indicates sacrifice. What sacrifices do people often make if they choose to worship money?
 - c. In what ways are you tempted to worship “treasures” rather than God? (E.g., career, material possessions, financial security, physical health trends, etc.)
4. **Read Romans 12:1-2.**
 - a. What patterns of our world do you need to resist?
 - b. What habits can you develop to renew your mind?

PRAY: Father, forgive me for any time I have approached You as a means to an end. Help me to recognize all that You have already done for me. Help me to live from a place of gratitude, training my brain to focus on *eternal* rather than *temporal* importance in my hierarchy of priorities.

NEXT: With the school year kicking off, we have a great opportunity right now to be generous in extending God’s love to our local schools. Help us provide back-to-school items for students and teachers in our community! Learn more at southland.church/schools.