

Should a preacher or Minister of the Gospel get paid?

The devil has been at work for a long time trying to convince many people that it is wrong for preachers to get paid. What is quite interesting is that people expect Christians to be the poorest but at the same time be the most generous. This thinking is nonsensical. It is critical to remember that if we are broke and busted, we couldn't be as generous as we ought to be and would be limited in our ability to propagate the gospel.

You have heard the saying "Money is the root of all evil" right? I wonder where this saying comes from because you can't find it in the Word of God. The Word of God doesn't teach that "money is the root of all evil," but teaches that the **LOVE** of money is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10). Money in itself is not bad or good. It is not evil or of the devil. If you believe so, then get rid of all those "devils of money" in your account and house by sending them to me.

I want to be honest with you here, I refused, and I reject taking the **"oath of poverty."** Now you know why I'm called Rich. Who wants to be poor or to serve a poor and broke God? I'm not saying that we should serve God for the money, but if we are so poor **that we can't pay attention we won't serve God therefore, we ought to revise what we believe.**

Proverbs 14:20 *The poor is hated even of his own neighbor: but the rich hath many friends.*

If you love poverty, you will be poor and you will be hated. You get whatever you desire, but you have to know that it is not God's best for you. If you are so convinced that it is not God's will for you to be financially prosperous, rich, or wealthy, kindly send me all your money and I will use it to preach the gospel. Sell everything you have, and I will help you spend your money for a greater cause of advancing the kingdom.

Additionally, although it is God's will for this financial prosperity, we should be very cautious not to get into greed and discontentment (1 Timothy 6:6-8 "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.")

But is it wrong for a preacher/minister to be paid? Religion has a habit of beating ministers into a position of working for free and/or receiving no compensation. Truth be said, Ministry is not just a calling; it can be a **FULL-TIME job** that requires compensation for at least the basic needs of the minister.

I have met many ministers who get paid pennies or even none mostly because of fear of men and criticism.

Many suffer financially yet they are receiving money from offerings and various donations.

I knew a couple in this position who went into debt because they could not pay themselves. These people work harder than any people that I know, roughly 90 hours a week.

Many people get offended when a preacher lives a good life. They have a concept that every preacher has taken the "oath of poverty" which is not true. Because of this mindset, they begin to criticize people they do not even know or have a relationship with. I once heard someone say that you should never criticize a preacher who you have not sat under their ministry of word for about three years. **Furthermore, you should never criticize the size of another man's harvest if you do not know the size of their seed.**

Others have no problem with other professionals getting compensated, but when it comes to preachers, many think they should starve, and live a very poor life. The truth is this is one of the reasons some resort to funny gimmicks, lying, and stealing. I argue that ministers need to be paid—well paid.

If it is okay to pay money—big money to guys that kick the ball, throw the ball, or bounce the ball millions of dollars, if it is okay to pay "Unhollywood" pervert actors, porn un-stars big money if it is okay to pay politicians (Poly-ticks) big money, if it is okay to pay singers many that sing nasty, vulgar and perverted music big money why is it wrong to compensate men and women that oversee and cater for the lives and souls of men—the most important assignment on earth to change these people's lives here on earth and for eternity.

Some people think ministering the word is all there is to pastoring or being a minister. These people know nothing surely. Preaching is like just 20% of being a minister or pastor. A minister studies the word and prepares to minister and feed the flock, pray for the flock, counsel, baptize, Hospital visits, lead and manage the affairs of the ministry (CEO roles and responsibilities), evangelism, funerals, marriages, and so forth. No one wants to mention any of these and many think all there is, standing up and preaching.

- A. It is God's will for ministers (Preachers and Teachers) of the word to be fed of the Gospel.

The word of God is very clear on where the minister or preacher should get his living. It gives clear directions on who should receive of the gospel.

- a) Proverbs 27:18 "Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured."
- b) 1 Corinthians 9:7-14 "Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not

of the milk of the flock? ⁸ Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also? ⁹ For it is written in the law of Moses, thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? ¹⁰ Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. ¹¹ If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? ¹² If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless, we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ. ¹³ Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? ¹⁴ Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."

- i) A soldier does not pay for the expenses of a war that he is sent to. The man who plants a vineyard eats of the vineyard he has planted. It is not strange for a man who feeds the flock to drink milk from the flocks he feeds. Those who sow spiritual things are entitled to reap carnal things. There is nothing strange about this. As in the Old Testament temple, the priest lived of the holy things, in the New Testament, those who preach the gospel should live of the gospel.
 - ii) Notice that verse 14 says "**gospel**". The Gospel is the message of God's grace towards us (Acts 20:24; Romans 1:16 and Galatians 1:6). He that preaches the law of Moses, wrath, and judgment of the OT is not preaching the gospel and therefore should not live of the gospel. He is preaching the law, not the grace of Christ which is the Gospel. **Those who want to be financially supported by the gospel must be preaching the gospel, not the law.**
- c) Galatians 6:6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.
- i) The word "communicate" here is talking about "giving." We should be givers to the teachers and preachers of the word of God.
- d) 1 Timothy 5:17 "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."
- i) The phrase "counted worthy of double honour" here is talking about or is a reference to a **double pay or double financial remuneration**. If these movie stars or sports people can be paid millions for entertainment, we should be

paying ministers of the Gospel much more for they are the ones who are truly impacting and changing lives.

e) 1 Timothy 5:18 For the scripture saith, thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

i) A minister of the word is a labourer who is worthy of his reward just as the ox that treads the corn. This is a simple principle that we should not miss.

The work of the Lord is the most important work here on earth. In my opinion, if it requires a private Jet, so be it. If it takes being on television and traveling the world, so be it. Why is it okay for people who are doing less important work like movie actors, politicians, or sports professionals to have all these things, and yet it is not okay for many sincere ministers of the Word of God who are out and about to change people's lives for eternity.

If God spoke to one man about doing something, you have no right, to challenge what God has told him or her to do, if it is scriptural. Some people have no legal knowledge that when a minister has a ministry, even if it was founded by him, he does not own the ministry property such as a private jet, buildings, land, and so forth even though people say they belong to them. All the property does not belong to the president and founder of the ministry but to the ministry organization itself. If the founder and president were to sell the ministry property and deposit the money into his account or use it on his own desires besides the ministry as the bylaws dictate, that minister would have to go to jail. He also draws a salary that is set by his board.

On many occasions, you find that a president or founder of the ministry can be ousted due to fraud, sexual immorality, and theft by the board of directors. When this happens, that founder or president doesn't depart with the property of the ministry even if the ministry has his name on it.

2 Corinthians 9:11 "Being enriched in everything to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God."

i) The word "**Enriched**" used here comes from a Greek word "PLOOTIdZO" that means, "to make wealthy" (Strong's Concordance). God wants us to be wealthy and rich in everything. Any teaching of poverty violates the word of God.

ii) Poverty doesn't cause us to give thanks to God, but wealth and riches do.

o Abound in the grace of giving

2 Corinthians 8:7 "Therefore, as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."

- i) How can a believer abound in the grace of giving if he is poor and it is God's will for him not to prosper? According to the law of sowing and reaping, if one is to abound in giving, they must as well abound in receiving because whatsoever a man soweth, that he shall reap also.

B. Poverty is a curse.

Many still think ministers need to take the curse of poverty. Why should they if Jesus brought and pronounced upon each of us a **blessing of prosperity**? He took our poverty and gave us riches.

- a) Deuteronomy 28:15-18 "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field. Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store. Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep."
 - i) These verses clearly describe poverty, and they also make it clear that it is a curse. Under the New Covenant, the Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13). We do not have to be poor.

C. God made people rich in the bible. Why not us?

If truly financial prosperity was not God's will, He would not have made all these rich.

a) Abraham

- i) Genesis 13:2 "And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold." Genesis 24:1 "And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things."

b) King Solomon

- i) 1 Kings 3:13 "And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days." And 1 Kings 10:27 "And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones..."
- c) Isaac
 - i) Genesis 26:12-14 "Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him."
- d) David
 - i) 1 Chronicles 29:28 "And he died in a good old age, full of days, **riches**, and honor: and Solomon his son reigned in his stead."
- e) Job
 - i) Job 1:3 "His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east."

All these passages are not describing a poor man but a rich, wealthy man.

D. Purpose for financial prosperity

- a) Propagate the Gospel and advance the kingdom of God
 - i) Philippians 4:15-17 ¹⁰ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. ¹⁵ Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. ¹⁷ Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.
 - ii) 2 Corinthians 9:8 ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

b) Give to him that has need.

- i) Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Conclusion

Although it is God's will for a believer to be financially prosperous, this prosperity is not just for us. God has blessed us or blesses us to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2), and to abound unto every good work and to sow into others (2 Corinthians 9:8, 10). In the desire to be prosperous, we should be very cautious not to pursue after the money. We are to seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto us (Matthew 6:33). It is important to remember that the richest man who ever lived never sought riches but God. The Word of God has some strong warnings against the snares of riches and money.