

Wealth and Possessions

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we begin this important undertaking, help us to recognize Your unsurpassed blessings and gifts in our lives. Through this study, lead us to a deeper understanding of Your will. Strengthen our resolve as obedient children to serve You in all things and through all things. Guide us with a loving hand so that we may not stumble in confusion, but rather walk in the light of Your wisdom. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

Purpose

Most people who hear the words *wealth* or *estate* envision the lifestyles of the rich and famous. Mansions...fancy cars...extravagance. "That's not me," we think. "I'm not rich. I have a regular car, a modest home. I have to watch what I spend." That same perspective leads us to believe that estate planning – determining the ultimate distribution of our possessions – applies primarily to rich people.

Not so. Wealth affects us all, whether we like it or not, and many of us have experienced the sweetness and bitterness of its fruit firsthand. Estate planning is for anyone wishing to pass on his or her possessions responsibly and legally.

Scripture is clear that there is a direct connection between *what we do with our possessions and our personal relationship with God*. For this reason, we will seek to offer a biblically grounded perspective of our possessions.

Our goal is a lofty one: to begin to understand the *eternal value* of our belongings by gaining insight into God's