

CA5. Not Using Religion to Acquire Riches.

We are not to use religion to acquire riches.

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

1 Timothy 6:3-5

If anyone teaches differently and does not agree to the sound precepts of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah and to the doctrine that is in keeping with godliness, he is swollen with conceit and understands nothing. Instead, he has a morbid desire for controversies and word-battles, out of which come jealousy, dissension, insults, evil suspicions, and constant wrangling among people whose minds no longer function properly and who have been deprived of the truth, so that they imagine that religion is a road to riches.

1 Timothy 6:6

Now true religion does bring great riches, but only to those who are content with what they have.

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 6:24

Luke 6:24

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Related New Testament Mitzvot

CA06 Not Setting a Goal of Being Rich

CA07 Not Being a Lover of Money

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Proverbs 23:4-5

Don't exhaust yourself in pursuit of wealth; be smart enough to desist. If you make your eyes rush at it, it's no longer there! For wealth will surely grow wings, like an eagle flying off to the sky.

Comment

This *Mitzvah* #CA5 is misunderstood if one believes that every attempt to raise money for a religious purpose is wrong. It costs money to feed the poor, support ministers and build or lease congregational buildings. The giving of tithes and offerings to support the Levites, maintain the Tabernacle (later the Temple) and to assist the poor are, in fact, commanded in Scripture. No, this *Mitzvah* to “not use religion to acquire riches” speaks against a wrong heart attitude of using religion in order to acquire riches. It is not wrong for a minister to want to earn a living through

ministry and even to become wealthy while in ministry, but it is an indictment against pursuing ministry for the purpose of becoming wealthy.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

A21 Fleeing from Love of Money and Pursuing Godly Virtues