

Title: The Love of Money

Text: I Timothy 6:1-10

Today, we come to chapter 6 of I Timothy. Please take your Bibles and turn to I Timothy chapter 6. Our subject this morning is one of the most popular subjects in the Christian church: THE LOVE OF MONEY. I Timothy chapter 6 beginning with Vs 1. There are notes in your bulletin and I invite you to follow along as we study God's Word.

(Read I Timothy 6:1-10)

Prayer

Often when the subject of money comes up, I find that some people TUNE-IN: and some people TUNE-OUT. There are some people who do not like to hear sermons on the subject of money because it affects them so deeply. In fact, there is no subject which affects the christian so much as MONEY. But, the whole subject is part of Christian commitment. And our commitment to Christ is affected by what we own and our useage of that which we process. In fact, our Christian commitment is often expressed by our attttitude towards money.

Now, there are a couple of things that I would like to ^{emphasize} make clear before we look at these verses. (1) First, this is God's Word...not my ideas. That is why it is so important to open your Bibles and follow along in your Bibles. Epecially, today. So that you will see in your Bibles, that I am not making all of this up. (2) Number two, these verses are not telling you to give more money to the church. What you give to the church is between you and the Lord. These verses are teaching principles concerning your attitude towards the money God has given to you.

So, with this in mind, let's look at these verses...

Now, the Bible says in this great classic text in Vs 10 that the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil. Some folks read that wrong and say that money is the root of all evil. That is not ~~right~~ ^{true}. It is the "LOVE OF MONEY" which is the root of all evil. ^{And} I would like to share with you ~~three~~ ⁴ ~~things~~ ^{principles} about the love of money from this passage.

But, before we look at those three ~~things~~ ^{principles}, you will notice in Vs. 1-2 that Paul introduces the subject of money by using an illustration that was very common in the Roman empire. It is the illustration of a slave and his master. And I would like to use this illustration in application of all employee and employer relationships.

And the point is simple: if you have an employer who isn't a christain, Vs 1, says to "honor him so that the name of God and our doctrine may not be spoken against." And the way you honor him is not by simply saying that "I think you are a wonderful person. Oh, no, it is by honoring him with your service. To give him an honest days work for your wages.

And if you have a believing employer, in Vs 2, Paul says "not to be disrespectful to him because he is a brethren." You know, there are some people who take advantage of a Christian situation because they are Christians. And the Bible forbids this. "But let them serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefits are believers and beloved. Teach and preach these principles."

(2C) Now, with this background, Paul begins a discussion about money.

Principles

~~Numbered~~ - According to Verses 3-5

And I would like you to notice, first of all, the characteristics of one who is in love with his money. The characteristics of one who is in love with his money. There are four characteristics that I would like you to notice ~~from~~ this passage of scripture. *And I hope this isn't*

True of anyone in this church. But you be the judge

(1D) Number one is found in Vs 3: They do not accept sound words.

Those who are in love with money do not accept sound words

We read, "if any one advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godlinesss."

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You will notice down in Vs 5, "they suppose that godliness is a means of gain." Vs 6, "But godliness is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment."

The whole point of this is that a person who is in love with his money does not accept the "sound words". The words that contribute to his health and happiness before God and before others. He goes his own way. And he doesn't even listen to the words of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And what
~~Now, what is meant by that statement? I believe Paul is referring to, what is~~ taught in the Book of Acts chapter 20 verse 35. Jesus had a classic statement about money that would cause us to be healthy, wholesome and happy. It is a tremendous principle. Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

And the person who is in love with money doesn't accept ~~that~~ *Those Sound Words* as a principle of life. In fact, his principle is just the opposite. He desires to receive rather than to give.

So often we see this in ~~people~~ *children* at Christmas time or during a birthday party. It is always the desire to receive...WHY?...Because it is the old ~~nature~~ *sin nature*. ~~It is the nature behaviour.~~ It is the old sin nature that desires to receive all the time. And if we don't receive the kind of gift or present that we wanted, we are disappointed....You know, "You gave me a tie ~~and a watch~~".....

on my last birthday

We laugh and smile about these things, but down deep there is a cancer. It is the cancer of loving money to the point that we would rather receive than to give. ^{{ Now maybe} We would not admit to ourselves or to anyone else that we love money. We wouldn't admit it. But the Bible says if we do love money we will be the kind of person that will not accept "sound words." Words that make for health and happiness in the christianly And especially we will have a hard time accepting the words of our Lord Jesus Christ. His words on the subject: IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE."

One of my favorite illustrations which isn't even related to Christianity as far as I know is the case of John D. Rockefeller who at the age of 54 was told by his doctor that he had less than one year to live. Rockefeller was a miser. He had gathered all of his wealth unto himself; and he was a miserable man. Literally he saw no meaning to life. And his doctor gave him the kind of wisdom that many Christians need to hear. His doctor said and I quote: "Mr Rockefeller, if you want to change your health, you are going to have to change the principle of your life. You are going to have to develop the attitude of giving instead of receiving." START GIVING....

And from that point on we have the story of the Rockefeller foundation. A foundation that has given away millions of dollars. Rockefeller lived to the age of 94. But, he was told that he would die within the year, if he didn't change his attitude towards money.

^{Peeps} friends, when will we understand the principle of the Lord Jesus Christ? It is more blessed to give than to receive....A tremendous principle to follow....

(2D) Then, secondly, concerning the characteristics of ^{one who is in} ~~the~~ love ^{with} ~~of~~ money, ^{considers the} ~~consider~~ the attitude towards others. Vs 4 says, "He is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid (meaning "sick") interest in controversial questions and disputes about words." Notice, the results: "out of which arises envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions." You know, when a person is in love with money it causes strife. You cannot live with yourself and people cannot live with you. It causes trouble all the time.

The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. That is the word of God. We should believe it. It causes envy and strife. And I believe you know what I am talking about. People fall in love with money and it becomes a god. And the result is envy and strife between people who were created in God's image. The Word of God teaches us this truth.

(3D) Now, the third characteristic ^{of a person who is in} ~~about~~ the love ^{with} ~~of~~ money concerns the absence of truth. Notice Vs 5, "Constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth."

Deprived, or total ["]absent of the truth." WHAT TRUTH? Notice it is "THE TRUTH". Whenever you find the definite articulte "THE" before a noun, it is talking about a particular kind of thing. Here, it is talking about "THE TRUTH". Not just "truth" in general. Not just being a truthful or honest person. Paul is talking about "THE TRUTH". Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, the life." } So, Paul is referring to Jesus Christ. And a person who is in love with his money is standing apart from, is absent from, THE TRUTH OF JESUS CHRIST. Because when Jesus is ^{at} ~~in~~ work in a ~~person's~~ person's life, he cannot love money. { WHY NOT?... Because it would be violating the principle of Jesus himself. And if Christ is in control of your life, then you will be following His direction for your life. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey me."..... ^{IT is more blessed to give than to receive}

So, ^{We all need to} ~~examine yourself.~~ ^{examine ourselves at the point} Is Christ in control? Or, is self in control?

I have found in my experience that those who fall into the general area of "Young Married" are having a hard problem with Vs 9. "Those who want to get rich." Young married couples who want it all right now.... two cares, a house, new furniture...all right now. And they give their life to trying to gather about themselves riches and material possessions. And they have no time for the things of God. And they lose their first faith because God has been regulated to 4th or 5th place on the ladder of things that are important. *(Time to buy Lottery Tickets)*

Please notice what Vs 9 says: "fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction." The Bible says "those who want to get rich." And this, dear friends, is a characteristic of the love of money.

(3C) Now, let's move on to Vs 6-8 and the contentment that is so desperately needed. Where do we find lasting contentment? *Contentment is not to be thankful for what we have.*

Vs 6, "But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment." You know, that is a wonderful principle to capture. To lay your head on the pillow at night and to be contented with what you have. To be able to say "Thank you, Lord, for all your provisions."

The contentment that comes not because of wealth but because of our relationship to Jesus Christ. I have counseled with people who have the abundance of the world, they have material possessions, they have all that this world could offer, Yet, they are not content. They are restless. They are always reaching for something beyond. And their heart cries out for contentment....HOW SAD....I wonder when we will learn that contentment and joy comes not from the things of the world, but it comes from God. Augustine said it so well, "Man is a restless being until he finds peace with God."

Thank you for what we have

"Godliness is a means of gain, when accompanied by contentment."

And we find the reason in Vs 7, "For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either."

Now, we all know that principle. That is not something new. But, why do we live as if it were true? We were born with nothing. Oh, someone in the family may have left us with a nest egg. But, we were born with nothing. And what ever nest egg you might have received, I guarantee you, you will not take it with you.

(Bumper sticker----MOTOR HOME----"Just retired, spending the kids inheritance")

ad Now, notice the principle found in Vs 8, "and if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content." To be content with what we have. Paul said to be content in what ever state you find yourself. And to rejoice in all things. In other words, thank God for everything.

(4C) Then, *Third* finally, I would like you to notice the consequences of the love of money. What will happen to the person whose primary objective in life is to possess money? *What are the consequences.*

(1D) Well, number one, in Vs 9 it says that he will fall into temptation. He will be tempted to do something against the will of God because of his love for money.

(2D) Secondly, he will fall into a snare. The Bible teaches that Satan puts out snares or traps in order to lead us astray. To lead us away from serving the Living God.

(3D) Third, many foolish and harmful desires will plunge men into ruin and destruction. And I believe the ruin and destruction that Paul is referring to is the unhappiness within the christian life. We don't understand and enjoy the benefits of God's presence in our life...The joy is gone. [It could also refer to physical ruin. And there are many illustrations of people who have lost everything they owned because of their desire for more and more and more.

(3D) Fourth, and most serious, they will wander away from the faith. ~~Jesus~~

Jesus said, "What will it profit a man to gain the whole world and yet loose his soul." What will it profit us if we get everything we could ever want, and yet loose meaning to life, right now, and eternal life.

You know, when I read this I can't help but feel the importance of changing our attitude towards our possessions. Dear friends, if your desire for money becomes first place in your life, I guarantee you that it will cause you to wonder away from the faith; and it will pierce you with many a pang. And that simple means that you may wake up someday and find out that it is too late and there will be tears of sorrow, much grief and much sadness. The love of money is the root of all sorts of evil....

cont

(5C) O.K...WHAT SHOULD BE THE CHRISTIAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS MONEY? Let me share four principles with you.

(1D) One, to remember that all things come from God. All that we have, we have because God gave it to us. And if you have more of the world's possessions than someone else, remember the principle: TO THE ONE WHO HAS MUCH, MUCH IS EXPECTED.....

(2D) Secondly, God has made us a steward of all that he has given us. You are responsible ^{To God.} for your possessions.

(3D) Third, God gives to us so that we might use what he has given to His honor and his glory. *Whether much or little - use all to His Honor and glory*

(4D) Fourth, the attitude and the principle of a christian's life should be to give and not to receive.

Why ^{These Fourth} these principles? Because God gave to us His son. And it was Jesus who died that we might have life, now, and for all eternity.

And friends, we don't deserve God's love. We who rebel and so often turn our nose up to God. We don't deserve His grace. But God so loved you and me that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. *Before we loved God, God loved us*

I wonder what will we do? It maybe, today, that you have never given your life and heart to Jesus Christ. You know, God loves you. And he desires that you come to salvation. I pray that you will receive Christ as your Lord and Saviour.

And my christian friends, if you have never committed your entire life to Jesus Christ, and I mean your processions, then why not now. If you have never said to God, "God, I give my all to you. All that I am and all that I have, for your use and glory" then do it today. Get the love of money out of your life. God will forgive and cleanse and restore the joy of a life that gives..... *Because it is more blessed to give, than to receive*

Shall we close in prayer