



Tuesday November 3, 2015

Though money is first and foremost a good gift from God, the Bible teaches that it can also be a serious temptation. Why? Because it promises to deliver everything we desire. Comfort? Security? Fun? Fulfillment? Power? Sex? Money seems like the universal key that unlocks all the doors to happiness. But this is a lie.

Money “promises” lasting happiness, but it can disappear overnight—and you can’t take it with you when you die. Money promises freedom and ease, but it brings anxiety and worry: the more you have, the more you have to lose.

Greed is simply an insatiable, selfish desire for more of something—most often money and possessions. Scripture not only condemns greed, it also proclaims its futility, “*Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income,*” Ecclesiastes 5:10. This verse brings to mind how industrialist and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller famously responded when asked how much money is enough money, “Just a little bit more.”

Though humorous, the point is, if you love money you can never have enough of it. There’s always more out there to get. There’s always another zero to add to your paycheck; always-another investment opportunity too good to pass up; always a new latest-and-greatest version of almost everything you own.

But the Apostle Paul issues a sobering warning against allowing the desire for wealth to overtake our contentment with life:

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

1 Timothy 6:6-10

The desire to be rich can be quite the trap. Money seems to offer such freedom and fulfillment, such comfort and security. But sometimes all wealth leads to is misery and ruin. Why? Because—as with so many things in life—as one’s love for, desire for, and pursuit of money increase, so does one’s willingness to do whatever it takes to get it.

This is why Paul says that the love of money is a root of evils. Again, it’s not money itself that’s the problem—as we’ve already seen, money is a good gift from God. It’s the love of money that is an issue here. The eager pursuit of money can lead anyone down a destructive path. If our hearts become invested in earthly rewards over eternal ones, we have strayed far from the path of righteousness.

Reflect: *1 Timothy 6:10 “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” How have you seen this play out in the lives of people you know? How have you seen evidence of this in your own life? How is God challenging you to respond?*