

1 Timothy 6:6-12, Text V10 – Money, Money, Money

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **You must love all gifts God gives to you. If one of those gifts is money, you should love it.**

But our text says that you must not love money! Isn't that a contradiction? No, there is no contradiction at all.

The word translated “love of money” is one word, “philaguria.” (Phila-love; aguria (silver) But this word speaks of being a miser and hoarder of money for one’s own purpose.” Literalism will confuse you. Butter + fly don’t make butterfly.

What God meant is that you must not have an immoderate desire for money. You should love money because it is a gift of God, but you must not be greedy or covetous, just like you can love your neighbor’s wife (proper love), but not covet (have an immoderate desire for) her.

Our headings are:

The Causes for the Love of Money

The Consequences for the Love of Money

The Cure for the Love of Money

Our goals are: **That you will learn to control the lusts for earthly possessions so you can focus on serving your Savior.**

1 Timothy 6:10 For the **love of money is a root of all kinds of evil**, for which **some have strayed** from the faith in their greediness, and **pierced themselves through with many sorrows**.

The Causes for the love of money

1. The love of money (covetousness) is the root of all kinds of evil. But what does it mean to be covetous?

2. Being covetous is to have an immoderate desire for something...usually something that is not yours. In this case, it is an immoderate desire for money. This immoderate desire means that money is no longer a means to an end, but the end of itself.

If money becomes the end – the goal of your life, then loving God and your neighbor is no longer your end. Satisfying your desires becomes your end. One man said it well: "A tiny penny held close enough to the eye will obscure the universe."

3. What are those immoderate desires that drive you to crave money and cause you ignore your duties to God and man?

a. Lusts of the flesh. In order to satisfy the lusts of the flesh, **like having an obsession with food**, the wicked craves for money to satisfy his desires.

So instead of enjoying a hamburger, he craves a T-bone steak that he might not be able to afford. He then does whatever is necessary in order to get the money he needs. **Money becomes the god he hopes would provide for his lusts.**

Another type of fleshly lust is a craving for intimacy. If a man thinks he can have more intimacy if he has more money, then he craves for money and does whatever it takes to get that money (ignoring other duties). **Money becomes his god he hopes would provide for his lusts. (He lusts, so he covets.)**

b. Lusts of the eyes. To satisfy the lusts of the eyes, like having an obsession with worldly goods, the wicked craves for money. He thinks he needs to have the new I-phone 7, or a bigger house, or more expensive clothes. **His lusts for worldly goods drive him to crave money.** He hopes that money would satisfy the lusts of his eyes. So he overworks and **ignores his duty to God, his family, his neighbor, and his church.** He may even rob God of the tithes that belong to him.

c. Pride of life. In order to satisfy the pride of life (having a presumptuous attitude toward God and a boastful attitude to the world), the wicked acts like he has a right to get whatever he wants (**he has an attitude**) and that God is obligated to give him what he wants. So when he doesn't get that raise in pay, his pride is hurt and he demands that God provide for him. **When he can't go on that European vacation,** he becomes angry with God. When God doesn't give him what he wants, he pursues wealth. He ignores the ones he should love.

Psalms 10:3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; He blesses the greedy and **renounces the LORD.**

5. The love of money is the root of “all evil” but of “all kinds” of evil. The Bible often leaves out words that you must fill in to grasp the meaning. Example:

Genesis 32:28 And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel..."

God was saying: "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob [only], but Israel [also]. In fact, shortly after this God called Jacob, Jacob. And there are many other such places where you have to understand God's intention. You talk like this as well: "You'd better be done with your work before I get home..."

The Consequences for the love of money

1. Those who love money may stray from the faith. Straying is the realistic fruit of loving money.

1 Timothy 6:9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which **drown men in destruction and perdition.**

Proverbs 11:28 **He who trusts in his riches will fall,** But the righteous will flourish like foliage.

Instead of enjoying all the hopes and joys of serving the Lord, some run after the shiny thing – Fool's Gold. (The Apostle Paul does not mean that Christians can lose their salvation when he says they "stray from the faith." Those who permanently leave the faith were not truly Christians in the first place. Apostle Paul simply means that those who covet may stray from the faith for a while.

2. Those who love money pierce themselves with many sorrows. The word for "pierce" is "peiro." It means to pierce through completely...like meat that was to be roasted was pierced through and rotated over the fire. The warning was this: **When riches are properly used they bring joy, but when riches are improperly used they become thorns.** Think of your tortured (pierced) consciences when you ignore your spouse, your children, or your church in order to satisfy your lusts. Think of the guilt...the arrows! This is the pricking of the conscience. Matthew Henry: **Covetousness is like a bird sitting on snake's eggs**...might seem good...until the snakes hatch and kill the bird."

3. When you obsess over money, the soul is stressed and struggles. Many other sins follow this love of money: fraudulent actions, lies, perjury, robbery, cruelty to the weak, corruption in the courts, fights – even with friends and family, hatred of anyone who hinders you, and murders of those who stand in the way to your financial obsessions.

Mark 10:24 And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, **how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!**

4. While this is surely a spiritual consequence primarily, there are physical consequences of loving money also. The body wears down from over work, and the mind has no room to focus on spiritual things. If you do come to church, you are tired and disinterested.

The Cure for the love of money

1. Realize all the spiritual riches you have in Jesus Christ.

a. You are the Son of the God of the Universe. You call him Abba, Father. Not a hair can fall from your head without his decree.

b. Your name is written in his will – in the Lamb's Book of Life. You have a right to heaven.

c. You will be able to enjoy your rights and riches for eternity. All needs...and great joys are yours for eternity. These things should satisfy your soul.

Proverbs 14:14 The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, **But a good man will be satisfied from above.**

2. Be satisfied with the earthly wealth God has given you now. In fact, that was the context.

1Timothy 6:6 Now godliness with **contentment is great gain.** 8 And having food and clothing, with these **we shall be content.**

The word for contentment is often translated as “sufficiency.” The point is that you have all your needs so there is no need for lusting.

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for **I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:**

Teach your children contentment from early so they can be more effective servers in Christ’s kingdom.

3. Know that you brought nothing in this world and you surely won’t take anything out. There is therefore no need to be covetous. Solomon:

Ecclesiastes 5:15 As he came from his mother’s womb, **naked shall he return,** To go as he came; And he shall take nothing from his labor Which he may carry away in his hand. 16 And this also is a severe evil — Just exactly as he came, so shall he go. **And what profit has he who has labored for the wind?**

And again:

1Timothy 6:7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is **certain we can carry nothing out.**

4. Be busy doing other things so lusts would not take over your mind– lusts that push you to adorn and obsess over money.

1Timothy 6:11 But you, O man of God, **flee these things** and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

5. Pray for grace to have an open hand instead of a close fist! Giving to the poor is lending to the Lord and he pays back double.

Conclusion:

Because of your desire to satisfy the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life, **you may obsess over money.** But remember the consequences: **You hurt your body and your pierce your soul. You stray.** But the cure is available. **Know all the riches you have in Jesus Christ.** Let this knowledge satisfy your body and soul. Remember, Jesus conquered all 3 of the lusts when he was in the wilderness and was tempted by the Devil. Then become busy with serving God and your neighbor so you won’t have time to lusts.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Let me encourage you – no, let me warn you – not to forget the work of the Savior for you on the cross and not to forget the enrichment he brings to your life.

2. Ask God for the grace to die to yourself and your selfishness and put others first.

3. Then work for the good of your neighbor instead of coveting things for yourself.

Finally: If you are not a Christian, your greatest need, above anything financial, is to know the Savior, to have your sins forgiven, and to have your name written into the Lamb’s Book of Life. May you ask God for these blessings today...blessings that he freely offered...blessing that Jesus earned when he died on the cross.