

**Subject: A Biblical View of Money**

**Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19**

Money is an important subject to most people. The Bible gives us the right perspective.

### **1. A WORD TO ALL PEOPLE ABOUT MONEY (vs. 6-8)**

- Understand the value of being content (vs. 6)

We need to be content with what we have. Jeremiah Burroughs wrote a book titled, “The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment.” It is even rarer today. The false teachers were saying that financial gain is a part of godliness (vs. 5). We still have the prosperity preachers among us who say if you are in God’s will, you will prosper financially. In direct contrast to this false teaching, Paul makes a powerful statement about the Christian life (vs. 6). Jesus promised abundant life (Jn. 10:10), not a life of financial prosperity. The abundant life has to do with spiritual blessings and spiritual resources. The key to contentment is having Jesus in your life. ***Hebrews 13:5*** *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

Godliness is a familiar theme in this letter. Godliness is a word that describes God’s purpose and provision in saving us. The goal of life is to lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty (2:2). The life and ministry of Christ is called “the mystery of godliness” (3:16). We are to exercise ourselves unto godliness because bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable unto all things (4:6-7). Christian doctrine is the doctrine which is according to godliness (6:3), and the man of God is to pursue godliness (6:11).

And godliness is a theme found beyond this letter. ***2 Timothy 3:5*** *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.* ***Titus 1:1*** *Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness.* ***2 Peter 1:3*** *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.*

Here Paul joins godliness and contentment and says that these two things go together. One translation says: “Godliness is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.” Contentment means to be “self-sufficient, self-satisfied.” It is an inward satisfaction that is not affected by outward circumstances. A contented person does not need anything outside himself or anything extra to satisfy him. Contentment is inner satisfaction.

Paul knew something about contentment. ***Philippians 4:11-13*** <sup>11</sup> *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.* <sup>12</sup> *I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.* <sup>13</sup> *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.* Money never satisfies. King Solomon learned that the hard way. ***Ecclesiastes 5:10*** *He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.* Someone asked a very wealthy man how much money would be enough for him. He said, “Just a little bit more.”

- Understand that all possessions are temporary (vs. 7)

When Mr. Rockefeller died someone wanted to know how much money he left. He left it all.

**Job 1:21** *And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.*

**Psalms 49:16-17**<sup>16</sup> *Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased;*<sup>17</sup> *For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.*

**Ecclesiastes 5:15** *As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labor, which he may carry away in his hand.*

You never see a suitcase beside a casket or a hearse pulling a u-haul trailer. We leave this world the same way we enter. We wear nothing and we carry nothing with us. We come and go with empty hands.

- Understand the difference between needs and wants (vs. 8)

There is contentment in living a simple life. A simple Quaker man was watching his new neighbors more in with all their nice things. He went over to greet the family and said: "Hey neighbor, if you come up missing anything, come see me and I'll tell you how to get along without it." In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told us the important thing is not what we put on (wear) or what we take in (eat), but what we put first (the kingdom of God and His righteousness).

## **2. A WORD TO PEOPLE WHO WANT MONEY (vs. 9-10)**

There is nothing wrong with being rich. Many godly people in the Bible were wealthy: Abraham, David, and Job. The problem is having a desire to be rich. Money is not evil. It is the love of money that becomes the root of all kinds of evil. These verses warn about the desire to have money and riches.

- The love of money is deceptive

It is like a trap set to catch an animal. People often fall (ongoing tense) into the same temptation and trap over and over again. They think money is the way up, but actually it is their downfall. In the parable of the sower and the seed Jesus taught three things will choke out the Word of God: the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things. **Mark 4:19** *And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.* Jesus said in **Luke 12:15** *Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*

- The love of money is destructive

The desire to be rich drowns men in destruction (in this life) and perdition (perishing in the next life). Coveting is a form of idolatry. **Ephesians 5:5** *For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*

## **3. A WORD TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE MONEY (vs. 17-19)**

Paul said to charge (warn) them that are rich in this world. He warns about four things:

- Riches can make you proud (high-minded) – *Jeremiah 9:23* *Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches.*
- Riches can give you a false sense of security

Riches are uncertain. We say that money talks. It says hello and goodbye. It even sings “I’ll fly away.” Believers are not to trust in their riches, but in the living God who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

- Riches should be used to help others

We should be rich in good works, sharing, and helping others. This is not speaking of Communism. This is basic Christianity. *Acts 2:44-45*<sup>44</sup> *And all that believed were together, and had all things common;*<sup>45</sup> *And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.* Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

- Riches should be used for eternal rewards

*Matthew 6:19-20*<sup>19</sup> *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:*<sup>20</sup> *But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.* People who set their heart on having earthly riches will be disappointed because they can’t take it with them and they have not invested in heavenly riches. Money is a good tool, but a bad master. Having money is not the problem. The problem is when money has us.