

I. Introduction and review.

II. Be free from the love of money. v. 5a

A. Is money itself evil?

1. It is the love of money which is the root of every kind of evil. I Tim. 6:10
2. Money is a test of your priorities. Luke 16:11
3. You can glorify God in your finances. Co. 3:23 I Ti. 5:8 Eph. 4:28 Mt. 6:11,25-33

B. Why is money-love so harmful? I Tim. 6:9-10

1. Money-love can lead to apostasy. I Tim. 6:9,10b Mark 4:18-19
2. Every one of the God's commandments has been broken because of money-love. Ex. 20:3-17 Col. 3:5 Mt. 6:24 26:15 Heb. 10:25 Lu. 12:13 20:47 Josh 7 Acts 5:1ff
3. There is no security in wealth. Pr. 23:5 11:25 Mt. 6:19 Luke 12:15-21 I Ti. 6:17 No amount of material things will satisfy you. Ecc. 5:10a
4. Money-love comes in different forms. Luke 12:18 Prov. 21:17

C. Those who love money are vulnerable to get-rich-quick schemes which prey upon their greed. 3:13 Pr. 28:19-20 14:23 19:15

1. God's design for gaining wealth is that you offer something of value (labor, skill, a product) in exchange for money. Pr. 6:6-11 10:4-5
2. Get rich quick schemes promise easy money.
3. Some bring financial ruin upon their families. I Tim. 5:8

D. Should Christians gamble?

1. I cannot prove beyond any doubt that every form of gambling is always sinful.
2. Only two things can happen when you gamble. Both are bad. Pr. 30:8-9
3. People typically gamble because of greed. Pr. 30:15
4. People gamble because they are not content with what God has given them.
5. Gambling is foolish.
6. Gambling is harmful to the community.
7. Even if you win, you will lose. Pr. 10:2 15:27 21:6

III. Learn to be content with what God gives you. v. 5b

A. We are not born with contentment. We have to learn it. Phil. 4:11

1. Learn that the key to joy is not an improvement in your circumstances.
2. Joy is founded upon the unchanging Lord. 13:8

B. What are some symptoms of serious discontentment? *Covetousness/money-love*

1. Are you constantly thinking, talking, or worrying about money? Mt. 6:25ff
2. Do you envy others (friends, family) who have more than you? Gal. 5:21,26
3. Are you constantly thinking about things you would like to own? Col. 3:2,5
4. Are you using material things like a drug? Is. 55:1-2 Ecc. 2:1ff Pr. 21:17
5. Are you a compulsive shopper, owning lots of stuff you don't even use? Pr. 22:3
6. Are you in financial trouble (debt) because of your spending habits? Pr. 22:7 21:5

C. How can you grow in contentment?

1. The key to contentment is not raising your standard of living, but lowering your desires. I Tim. 6:6-8

2. Acknowledge that God has sovereignly given you whatever you have, whether much or little. Luke 3:14
3. Don't grumble or envy others who seem to have more. Ro. 1:29 Gal. 5:21,26
4. Be thankful for all that God has given you. I Th. 5:18
5. Don't be proud of what you have. I Tim. 6:17 Js. 1:10 4:6 I Pe. 5:5
6. Enjoy what God has given you to his glory. I Tim. 4:3-5 6:17b Ruth 3:7
7. Express your faith in God by generously giving to others. Luke 12:21 I Tim. 6:18 Mt. 6:20 Mark 12:41-44 Prov. 3:9-10 11:25 19:17 I Co. 16:1-2 II Co. 8:1-3 9:5-6
8. Trust God to meet your needs. v. 5b-6 Mt. 6:33 Ps. 37:25
9. Remember that material things will not satisfy your soul. Only God can. Isa. 55:1-2 Heb. 11:1-2 Col. 3:1-2 I Tim. 6:17

IV. Trusting God frees from you covetousness and leads to contentment. v. 5c-6

A. Again our author turns to the Old Testament.

1. He sets an example of how we feed upon God's promises.
2. The answer to your financial troubles is a greatly enlarged view of God.

B. God has promised (covenanted) His ongoing presence; that He will never, never, never, never, never leave you or forsake you. Dt. 31:6-8 Josh 1:5 I Chron. 28:20 Isa. 41:10 Gen. 28:15 Mt. 6:33 28:20 Ps. 23:1ff

1. There are five negatives in the original Greek text.
2. Others may leave us, but God cannot.
3. Even when we fail Him, He never forsakes us. II Ti. 2:13 I Pe. 1:4-5
4. Covetousness and worry occur because of unbelief. Mt. 6:25-30
5. By faith you can enjoy peace and contentment. Phil. 4:11-13

C. With God on your side, you have nothing to fear. v. 6 Ps. 118:6-7

1. Don't fear men and what they can do to you. Luke 12:4-5 Pr. 29:25 Jer. 17:5-8
2. Don't be consumed by financial worries. Mt. 6:25ff
3. Our sovereign God is the Helper of His people. 2:18 4:15-16 Mt. 6:31-33
4. He will meet your needs. Ps. 37:25 Phil. 4:19
5. Boldly put your hope in Him.
6. Declare your trust in Him.
7. What about those situations in which believers suffer imprisonment, poverty, persecution, or even death? 10:32-34 11:36-38 Ro. 8:28 Phil. 1:21ff II Co. 5:8

V. Concluding applications.

- A. You cannot be both a lover of money and a lover of God. Mt. 6:24
- B. Find your treasure in Christ who became poor to make us rich. II Co. 8:9 Mt. 11:28ff
- C. Make your life goal not to be materially wealthy, but spiritually rich. Ps. 37:16 Pr. 8:10-11 16:16 19:1 Pr. 11:4 II Pe. 3:10-13 Mt. 6:19-21 Jer. 9:23-24

Discussion questions

1. Is money evil? Why or why not?
2. In what ways does money-love manifest itself?
3. How has money-love led to the breaking of every one of the Ten Commandments?
4. What does the Bible say about get-rich-quick schemes?
5. Is gambling wrong? Why or why not?
6. What are some signs of discontentment?
7. How can you learn to be content?
8. How does God's promise, presence, and character enable you to be content?
9. What can you do to strengthen your faith so you can be free from worry and covetousness?