

THANKS *for* GIVING SERIES

“The Love of Money and the Dangers of Materialism”

(1 Timothy 6:9-10; Revelation 18:4-7, 16-17, 20)

“But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.” (1 Timothy 6:9-10)

Many people are willing to surrender themselves and their principles to whatever god will bring them the greatest short-term profit. This, unfortunately, leads many to ...

❖ **The Love of Money**

The apostle Paul, in his first letter to his young disciple, Timothy, had this to say:

“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 6:10)

With that said, let’s consider the question before us:

Why is the love of money a root of all kinds of evil?

“Imagining that godliness is a means of gain.” (Timothy 6:5)

The love of money is what motivates people to lie, steal, cheat, gamble, embezzle, and even murder. The love of money leads people to the ...

- Darkness of Idolatry and Adultery

The New Testament tells us that ...

- Greed is Idolatry (Colossians 3:5)

Idolatry is worshiping and serving anything other than the one true God. Everything **material** we have, including money, is either a tool or an idol.

Our main text of Scripture that we read earlier speaks of this destructive path:

"But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Timothy 6:9-10)

Notice also that ...

- Money Love is Adultery

There is a self-destructive nature to loving money! Money can be a tool or an idol. And of course, when we love it in an excessive and selfish way, it becomes an idol and expressed as adultery.

❖ The Dangers of Materialism

Materialism consists of the two things God hates most—idolatry and adultery.

“The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.” (Revelation 18:3)

Notice Revelation 18:4-7,

“Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, ‘Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; ⁵ for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. ⁶ Pay her back as she herself has paid back others, and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed. ⁷ As she glorified herself and lived in luxury, so give her a like measure of torment and mourning, since in her heart she says, ‘I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.’” (Revelation 18:4-7)

“‘Alas, alas, for the great city that was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels, and with pearls! ¹⁷ For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste.’ And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off.” (Revelation 18:16-17)

“Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you” (Revelation 18:20)

What does materialism actually do to us? Let me give you six answers to that question.

- Materialism Prevents or Destroys Our Spiritual Life

Jesus rebuked the Laodicean Christians because although they were materially wealthy, they were desperately poor in the things of God (Revelation 3:17-18). Materialism blinds us to our own spiritual poverty.

- Materialism Blinds Us to the Curses of Wealth (Ezekiel 28:4-5)

"By your wisdom and understanding you have gained wealth for yourself and amassed gold and silver in your treasuries. By your great skill in trading you have increased your wealth, and because of your wealth your heart has grown proud." (Ezekiel 28:4-5)

Hosea put it this way:

"When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me." (Hosea 13:6)

- Materialism Brings Us Unhappiness and Anxiety
- Materialism is the Destroyer of Joy
- Materialism is the Mother of Anxiety

"Put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but in God, who richly provides" (1 Tim 6:17)

- Materialism Leads to Pride and Elitism

*"For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive?
And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?" (1 Corinthians 4:7)*

Paul tells Timothy,

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant" (1 Timothy 6:17)