



## Does the bible really say?

### Part 1: "Money is the root of all evil."

Tonight, we will begin a short series on common misunderstandings regarding the Word of God. In this series, we'll tackle some small and big issues that have become common sayings and phrases in our culture. Join me as we explore the truth about what Scripture really says.

**1 Timothy 6:10:** *"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. **Historically** speaking

- In ancient times, and still today, priests in some sects of the Catholic Church take vows of poverty.
- *What was/is the purpose of this kind of vow?*
  - a. To imitate the **simplicity** of the lifestyle of Jesus. **Matt. 8:20:** *"Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head."*
  - b. It **detaches** them from financial concerns and the **collection** of material possessions. **Luke 12:15:** *"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."*
  - c. They believe the **lack** of focus on these earthly things gives them **greater** focus on God and their roles as spiritual leaders. **Luke 6:20b:** *"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."*
  - d. They believe it allows them to **empathize** with the poor. **James 2:15-16:** *"Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go I wish you well; keep warm and well fed' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?"*

2. The **saddest** biblical example

- The greatest example of the love of money is none other than the disciple **Judas**. **Turn to John 12:1-6.**
- The context is a dinner given in Jesus' honor.
- Jesus' friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, are there with Him.
- Mary anointed Jesus' feet and wiped His feet with her hair.
- This was an **extravagant** and **sweet** act of worship.
- Like David, she would not give to the Lord that which cost her nothing!
- Her act of devotion and worship has blessed **believers** for the last 2,000 years.
- Mary's worship also blessed **everyone** there that day. **Vs. 3b**; *"And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume."*
- Next, we read the **first recorded** words of the betrayer in any of the Gospels. **Vs. 5**: *"Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was a year's wages."*
- Finally, we are given the true **reason** for his **objection**. **Vs. 6**: *"He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it."*
- The disciple John couldn't have known this unless the Lord revealed it to him. Judas loved money, and perhaps that was the original reason why he followed Jesus, or perhaps his role as treasurer of Jesus' ministry allowed him an opportunity to fall in love with money.
- It had **disastrous** effects, as later he would sell the Son of God for thirty pieces of silver, the common price of a slave in that day.

3. A **substituted** word

- Notice the subtle change between the common quote and the verse itself. Saying: *"Money is the root"* and verse: *"The love of money"*. This subtly changes the **entire** meaning of the actual verse.
- This misquoting of the verse places money/wealth as **THE source** of all evil in the world. Yet, **sin** is the root of all evil in the world, and its wages are death. The love of money is **a** root of all kinds of evil/sin.
- **Romans 5:12**: *"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all men, because all sinned."*
- In context, Paul is exhorting young Timothy to teach about the **dangers** of false teachers bent on financial **gain** (see 1 Timothy 6:3-10).

- Two great truths are also taught in this section of scripture, along with the warning about the love of money.
- The first is found in **vs. 6**: *“But godliness with contentment is great gain.”*
- When we combine imitating God and obedience to His commands with being content with whatever financial status He has assigned us, we gain far more than a large bank account.
- The second is found in **vs. 7-8**: *“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.”*
- Godly contentment lies in our **basic** needs being met. Anything beyond that is a **further** blessing from God and the **envy** of much of the world.
- Money and wealth are not sinful in and of themselves. The sinful **use** of or the **idolatry** of money leads to all kinds of evil.

#### **A few texts on money and its uses:**

**Deuteronomy 8:18**

**Proverbs 3:9-10**

**Proverbs 30:8-9**

**Matthew 6:11**

**Matthew 6:24**

**Luke 6:38**

**Hebrews 13:5**



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