



# Money

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What's the Problem?

September 29, 2019

# THE BIBLE ON MONEY

- In the gospels, an amazing one out of ten verses (288 in all) deal directly with the subject of money
- There are more than 2,300 verses on money, possessions, and wealth in the Bible
- Jesus spoke about money in roughly 15% of his preaching and 11 out of 39 parables



# THE BIBLE ON MONEY

- Some folks think money is irrelevant to their character, doesn't have any connection to their Christianity
- Almost every New Testament list of leadership qualifications mentions money (1 Peter 5:2; Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:2-3)



# MONEY GOES TO THE HEART OF THINGS

- How we use money is a test of our spiritual health and wholeness
- **Luke 16:10-11** NEW LIVING TRANSLATION  
“If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities. <sup>11</sup> And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?”





““ *I have lots of monies!*”

Dad: “How much of your monies are you going to give Jesus?”

Anna, happily: “None! I’m keeping it all for me!”



# 1 Timothy 6:9-10 NLT

People who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction.



## 1 Timothy 6:9-10 NLT

For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.





## 1 Timothy 6:9-10 VOICE TRANSLATION

But those who chase riches are constantly falling into temptation and snares. They are regularly caught by their own stupid and harmful desires, dragged down and pulled under into ruin and destruction.







## 1 Timothy 6:9-10 VOICE TRANSLATION

For the love of money—and what it can buy—is the root of all sorts of evil. Some already have wandered away from the true faith because they craved what it had to offer; but when reaching for the prize, they found their hands and hearts pierced with many sorrows.





Jane Park, winner of one million  
British pounds in EuroMillions  
lottery in 2013

“

People look at me and think, ‘I wish I had her lifestyle, I wish I had her money.’ But they don’t realize the extent of my stress. I have material things, but apart from that my life is empty. What is my purpose in life?”





Jack Whittaker, winner of \$315 million in 2002 West Virginia lottery

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“My granddaughter is dead because of the money. My wife had said she wished that she had torn the ticket up. Well, I wish that we had torn the ticket up, too. I just don’t like Jack Whittaker. I don’t like the hard heart I’ve got. I don’t like what I’ve become.”



# MONEY ONLY GOES SO FAR

- NT Wright: “Never before have so many people tripped over one another in their eagerness to get rich and thereby impaled themselves on the consequences of their own greed.”
- The Bible tells us this: if you look to money as the big fix, you will be disappointed
- Why? Because it’s not eternal and you were made for eternity



# MONEY CAN'T BUY YOU LOVE

- “Make yourselves at home in my love...remain intimately at home in my love” [John 15:9-10, MESSAGE, adapted]
- Jesus knows we are only safe and whole when we settle in for the long run with him
- We're sons and daughters, loved by a Father who's after true companionship



## 1 John 2:15-17 THE MESSAGE

Don't love the world's ways.  
Don't love the world's goods.  
Love of the world squeezes  
out love for the Father.  
Practically everything that  
goes on in the world—  
▶ wanting your own way,  
wanting everything for  
yourself, wanting to appear  
important—has nothing to do  
with the Father.



## 1 John 2:15-17 THE MESSAGE

It just isolates you from him.  
The world and all its wanting,  
wanting, wanting is on the  
way out—but whoever does  
what God wants is set for  
eternity.





# It's a Wonderful Life

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Clarence: “We don’t use money in heaven.”

George: “Well, it comes in pretty handy down here, bub.”





## THE KEY TO CONTENTMENT

- Deeper with him—that's where contentment is found
- “... your riches are unreliable and nothing compared to the living God. Trust instead in the one who
- ▶ has lavished upon us all good things, fulfilling our every need.”

[1 Timothy 6:17b, PASSION TRANSLATION]





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