

## Money is the Root of All Evil

Lesson 3 of the series: "The Bible Doesn't Say That!"

### A. It is very important to make sure we know what the Bible actually says.

1. The Bible is our guide in all matters of faith and practice.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

2. If we misquote the Bible, we can easily fall into error or deception.

"Some of (Paul's) comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of Scripture. And this will result in their destruction... So be on guard; then you will not be carried away by the errors of these wicked people and lose your own secure footing. Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:16-17 (NLT)

*Life Application:* "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)

### B. The Bible says: "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil!"

"Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil."

1 Timothy 6:9-10a (NIV)

1. Loving money makes us prideful.

"Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.' Then he told them a story: 'A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, "What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops." Then he said, "I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I'll sit back and say to myself, 'My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!'" But God said to him, "You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?" "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.'" Luke 12:15-21 (NLT)

*Life Application:* We will experience joy when we see ourselves as stewards (managers) of God's resources.

*Note:* This means we allow God's blessings to flow through us instead of stopping with us.

"Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life." 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NLT)

2. Loving money makes us dissatisfied.

"Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless." Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NLT)

"Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." 1 Timothy 6:10b (NIV)

*Life Application:* We must each decide how much is enough.

"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. 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." 1 Timothy 6:6 (NLT)

3. Loving money turns us away from God.

“If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.’ But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. I’ll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!’” Matthew 19:21-26 (NLT)

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

*Life Application:* We must value our relationship with God more than anything else.

“This is what the Lord says: ‘Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight...’” Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NIV)

*Life Application:* We can test ourselves regarding our love for God.

3 tests of love:

- Love serves.
- Love makes sacrifices.
- Love endures.

“Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.” Genesis 29:20 (NIV)

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### Connect Group Questions

1. What’s the difference between saying, “Money is the root of all evil” and “...the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil”? (1 Timothy 6:10)
2. Read Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16, & 2 Peter 3:16-17. One of Centerpoint’s core beliefs is that the Bible is our guide in all matters of faith and practice. Discuss the importance of accurately quoting Scripture.
3. Why do you think many Christians are reluctant to discuss what the Bible says about money?
4. Jesus said, “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” Matthew 6:24 (NIV) Discuss the following three tests of love.
  - Love serves. (whatever it takes, no job is beneath me, “What do you need?”, “How can I help?”, etc.)
  - Love makes sacrifices. (time, money, position, recognition, etc.)
  - Love endures. (long hours, setbacks, insults, rejection, discouragement, etc.)

We readily do all three of these things for our children and others we love, but do we do them for the Lord? Are we willing to do these things to make more money?

5. Solomon said, “Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.” Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NLT) Now look up how much Solomon made every year. (1 Kings 10:14-15) Why did he say this? (See Ecclesiastes 5:11-15 for more insight.)
6. Read Matthew 25:14-30 & 1 Timothy 6:17-19. What does biblical stewardship of God’s resources look like today?
7. Read the story of the rich fool (Luke 12:15-21). How does this story make you feel?