



Making Money as THE TOP Priority in Life is a “MYTHAKE”

THE PERIL OF THE LOVE OF MONEY (1 Timothy 6:9-10)

1 Timothy 6:9-10, “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. 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.”

Scripture does not say that money is the root of all evil; it says that the love of money is the root of all evil. This is a truth of which the great classical thinkers were as conscious as the Christian teachers:

- "Love of money is the metropolis of all evils." DEMETRIUS
- "The desire for that which does not belong to us, from which every evil of the mind springs." SENECA
- "The love of money is the mother of all evils." PHOCLIDES
- "The love of money is the starting-place of the greatest transgressions of the Law." PHILO
- "The belly's pleasure is the beginning and root of all evil." ATHENAEUS

Money in itself is neither good nor bad; but the love of it may lead to evil.

Four things to remember about money:

1. *With it a man may selfishly serve his own desires;*
2. *With it he may answer the cry of his neighbors' need.*
3. *With it he may facilitate the path of wrong-doing;*
4. *With it he may make it easier for someone else to live as God meant him to do.*

Money is not itself an evil, but it is a great responsibility. It gives power to do good and power to do evil.

What then are the special dangers involved in the love of money?

- **The desire for money tends to be a thirst which is insatiable.** There was a Roman proverbial saying that wealth is like sea-water; so far from quenching a man's thirst, it intensifies it. The more he gets, the more he wants.
- **The desire for wealth is founded on an illusion.**
 - ✓ It is founded on the desire for security; but wealth cannot buy security.
 - ✓ It cannot buy health,
 - ✓ Nor real love,
 - ✓ It cannot preserve someone from sorrow and from death.

Wake-up Call: The security which is founded on material things is foredoomed to failure.

- **The desire for money tends to make a man selfish.**
 - ✓ If he is driven by the desire for wealth, it is nothing to him that someone has to lose in order that he may gain.
 - ✓ The desire for wealth fixes a man's thoughts upon himself, and others become merely means or obstacles in the path to his own enrichment.
- **Although the desire for wealth is based on the desire for security, it ends in nothing but anxiety.**
 - ✓ The more a man has to keep, the more he has to lose and, the tendency is for him to be haunted by the risk of loss.
 - ✓ There is an old fable about a peasant who rendered a great service to a king who rewarded him with a gift of much money. For a time the man was thrilled, but the day came when he begged the king to take back his gift, for into his life had entered the hitherto unknown worry that he might lose what he had.
- **The love of money may easily lead a man into wrong ways of getting it, and therefore, in the end, into pain and remorse.**
 - ✓ That is true even physically. He may so drive his body in his passion to get, that he ruins his health.
 - ✓ He may discover too late what damage his desire has done to others and be saddled with remorse.

William Barclay: “To seek to be independent and to provide for the future is a Christian duty; but, to make the love of money the driving-force of life cannot ever be anything other than the most perilous of sins.”

**The saying is true,
“MAKING MONEY AS THE TOP PRIORITY IN LIFE IS A “MYTHTAKE.”**

MYTH #1:

MONEY IS NOT EVERYTHING; BUT IT WAY AHEAD OF WHAT IS IN 2ND PLACE.

MYTH #2:

ONE CAN BE HAPPY BY WINNING THE LOTTERY

MYTH #3:

ONE CAN BE HAPPY BY STRIKING IT RICH (I.E. OIL, NATURAL GAS, LAS VEGAS WINNINGS, PUBLISHERS CLEARING HOUSE \$7,000 PER WEEK FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE).

MYTH#4:

LEAVING A FORTUNE TO YOUR FAMILY WHEN YOU LEAVE THIS LIFE WILL MAKE THEM HAPPY AND SECURE FOR THE REST OF THEIRS.

MYTH#5:

BEING ABLE TO PAY CASH FOR YOUR CHILDRENS' COLLEGE WILL GUARANTEE THEM A GOOD LIVING WITH BENEFITS.

THE CROWN OF CONTENTMENT (1 Timothy 6:6-8)

1 Timothy 6:6-8, “And in truth godliness with contentment is great gain. We brought nothing into the world, and it is quite clear that we cannot take anything out of it either; but if we have food and shelter, we shall be content with them.”

The Greek word here used for contentment is autarkeia.

A watchword of the Greek philosophers:

“Contentment” meaning: a complete self-sufficiency; a frame of mind which was completely independent of all outward things, and which carried the secret of happiness within itself.

- **Contentment never comes from the possession of external things.**
- **Contentment comes from an inward attitude to life.**

In the Third part of Henry the Sixth, Shakespeare draws a picture of the king wandering in the country places unknown. He meets two gamekeepers and tells them that he is a king. One of them asks him: "But, if thou be a king, where is thy crown?" And the king gives a great answer:

"My crown is in my heart, not on my head;
Not deck'd with diamonds and Indian stones,
Nor to be seen; my crown is call'd content—
A crown it is that seldom kings enjoy."

It is not that Christianity pleads for poverty.

- *There is no special virtue in being poor, or in having a constant struggle to make ends meet.*
- *Being rich is not a sin...Being content with riches is a sin!*
- *Myth #6: Having money will give us a better perspective on life.*

Christianity does plead for two things.

1. **It pleads for the realization that it is never in the power of things to bring happiness.** *Happiness always comes from personal relationships. All the things in the world will not make a man happy if he knows neither friendship nor love. The Christian knows that the secret of happiness lies, not in things, but in people.*
 - ✓ *Scrooge found out the truth*
 - ✓ *The Grinch found out the truth*
2. **It pleads for concentration upon the things which are permanent.** We brought nothing into the world and we cannot take anything out of it. The wise men of every age and faith have known this. "You cannot," said Seneca, "take anything more out of the world than you brought into it." The poet of the Greek anthology had it: "Naked I set foot on the earth; naked I shall go below the earth."

Two things alone a man can take to God.

1. **He can, and must, take himself; and therefore his great task is to build up a self he can take without shame to God.**
2. **He can, and must, take that relationship with God into which he has entered in the days of his life.** *The secret of happiness lies in personal relationships, and the greatest of all personal relationships is the relationship to God. And the supreme thing that a man can take with him is the utter conviction that he goes to the One who is the friend and lover of his soul.*

Content comes when we escape the servitude to things, when we find our wealth in the love and the fellowship of men, and when we realize that our most precious possession is our friendship with God, made possible through Jesus Christ.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Matthew 6:24).

Note: This verse comes at the end of a passage in which Jesus tells us to “lay up treasures in heaven” (v. 19). Here, Jesus likens a “love of money” to idolatry.

- *He refers to money as a “master” we serve at the expense of serving God. We are commanded by God to have “no other gods” before the only true and living God (Exodus 20:3; the first commandment).*
- *Anything that takes first place in our lives other than our Creator God is an idol and makes us guilty of breaking the first commandment.*

Moral of this lesson:

Don't make the “mythtake” of thinking money can give you the happiness, security, and peace you have been looking for.

It is for sure...Two “mythtakes” don't make it “twue...The love of money can be double twouble for those seeking the world's riches and not being grateful and thankful for God's ample supply of our needs.

