

Money Traps

1 Tim. 6:9-10

Introduction:

- A. Money is more than “cash” — anything of monetary value.
- B. Money is a “must” in the world — no person or institution can function without it.
- C. Money is what we let it be — a “treat” or a “trap.”
 - 1. True for all — rich or poor. (1 Tim. 6:1-10; 17-19; Prov. 30:8,9)
 - 2. Given by God (v. 17) — exploited by Satan.
- D. Money traps that we often fall into:

Discussion:

I. When We Let Money Distort Our Sense of Security.

- A. Happiness and “sense of well-being” tied to things.
 - 1. Rich fool. (Lk. 12:13-21)
 - 2. Laodiceans (Rev. 3:17).
 - 3. Ultimately produces sorrow and greed (v. 10)
 - a. Anxiety (Matt. 6:24-34)
 - b. Greed hurts others (Mal. 3:8; Jas. 5:1-5; 1 Tim. 5:4,8,16).
- B. Must tie security to Lord and not things (1 Tim. 6:17)
 - 1. Things are uncertain (Matt 6:19-20).
 - 2. The Lord is certain (Phil 4:12, 13).

II. When We Let Money Set Our Standard of Living.

- A. A standard producing a vicious cycle.
 - 1. More money calls for higher standard — higher standard calls for more money.
 - 2. Keeping up with the Jones’ — Catch them, they get more.
- B. A standard costing much more than money.
 - 1. In time away from family — Moonlighting fathers, working mothers (Tit. 2:5).
 - 2. In time away from spiritual exercise — study, prayer, classes, assemblies, visiting, etc.
 - 3. In time away from needed rest (cf. Matt. 6:31)

III. When We Let Money Corrupt Our View of Success.

- A. Spell “success” with dollar signs — \$UCCE\$\$
- B. One can succeed or fail with much or little.
 - 1. Rich successes: Abraham, Joseph of Armathea.
 - 2. Poor successes: Jesus (Lk. 9:58), Paul (1 Cor. 4:11).
 - 3. Rich failures: Rich fool, young ruler.
 - 4. Poor failures: A poor thief (cf. Prov. 30:9), Lazy bum (2 Thess 3:10).
- C. Real success is preparing for eternity. (Mark 8:36).

IV. When We Let Money Warp Our Sense of Values.

- A. Money becomes our solution for most problems and needs. (Cf. Matt. 4:4)
- B. Giving becomes a means of buying respect (cf. Matt. 6:1-4)
- C. Dollars become a substitute for deeds. (Cf. 1 Tim. 6:18)
 - 1. In home: child rearing, hospitality.
 - 2. In community: Send check easier than going (cf. Mt. 25:42-45).
 - 3. In church: Pay someone to study, teach, sing for us. (Man said talent was making money).

Conclusion: If poor or prosperous:

- A. Be content, thankful, and trusting in God.
- B. Pray for wisdom to use what you have.
- C. Try to avoid traps associated with money.