



No Growth - Money 2

For the love of money is the root of all evil: Which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1 Timothy 6:10

Mind - Romans 7:23

Obtain - 1 Corinthians 9:24

Neighbour - Zechariah 8:17

Eyes/Ears - Luke 19:23

Yap/Yield - Mark 14:11

The theme verse for the love of money is verse ten of First Timothy six, "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." However, for believers, to avoid such a tragedy, the approach toward money begins in the four verses before the theme from verses six through nine, "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and certainly, we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be there with content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition." Believers should be content with the basics of food, clothing, and shelter. If special financial needs arise, we must look to God to provide while we continue to work, help those in need, and serve God with generous giving. Believers are not to be driven by a desire to get rich, as "the love of money is a root of all evil." People must understand that going down this path can lead to many sorrows. Here is how.

When a person loves money, they will easily be provoked into temptation from the devil, who is a spirit, who will use his people to get at the money lover in more ways than one. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places," as in Ephesians six, verse twelve. No physical strength of a human being can fight or overcome a spirit.

Mammon is a biblical term for riches, often used to describe the debasing influence of material wealth. For believers, beyond its identification with wealth, mammon is often regarded as a spiritual adversary in biblical discourse. Four verses for this term are in the New Testament, with two of them describing the Mammon of unrighteousness, while the other two verses indicate it as potentially being a master.

Starting with the New Testament, there are at least twenty-two verses of scripture about money. Matthew seventeen, verse twenty-four, declares, "And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? "Tribute" refers eventually to taxes. "He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? Of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? Of their own children, or of strangers? Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free," from verses twenty-five through twenty-six. These verses indicate the importance of money, which involves taxes that are part of society.

"However, in the Old Testament, it was the offerings of the tabernacle explained in Exodus thirty, verses thirteen through sixteen.

Another verse relevant to money is Matthew twenty-five, verse twenty-seven, a part of Jesus' conversation with His disciples that began in chapter twenty-four, verse four, when he mentioned the exchangers. "Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury." The "exchangers" were the bankers in those days. "Usury" refers to interest. However, "exchangers" were also persons who were in

the habit of borrowing money, or receiving it on deposit at a low rate of interest, to be loaned to others at a higher interest.

Money can spoil the mind. Inside the head is the battlefield, while the heart is where sin can be found. The Apostle Paul states in Romans seven, verse twenty-three, "But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." Many people, who experience captivity because of money. The temptation the devil uses to provoke individuals to yield to doing something unlawful, thinking they will get away with it, only to succumb to failing and finding not only their loss of not achieving their desires but pay the consequences with losing their privilege to life and freedom.

The potential of gaining money by doing someone wrong can be overwhelming pressure within the mind as they wrestle against the enemy who projects thoughts within. Delilah, in Judges sixteen, whom Samson loved, received an offer in verse five, "And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver." Delilah worked Samson over to reveal his source of strength in the following verses six through seventeen, and got paid for her services in verse eighteen, "And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand."

The Bible does not state what happened to Delilah at the end of Samson's life. Did she die when the pillars of the house full of people collapsed as they watched live entertainment with Samson? Delilah did what many people have done to others. She agreed to betray and conspire against someone who loves them for money. Money can't buy love, but it can buy someone to play the role, to get paid. Today in society, people are being paid to pretend and perform love.

People continue trying to find ways and means to make money. Paul states, "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain." For believers, you have leaders who claim to serve God but try to use their position to make money in God's house. Paul illustrates the principle that if we fail to exercise self-control, self-denial, and love in our relationships with others, we ourselves will be disqualified. Especially handling money in the house of God.

Ananias and Sapphira were punished in Acts five, verses one to eleven. They lied about their giving to the church. However, God considered this a lie against the Holy Spirit, which is a serious offence. The root of the sin for Ananias and Sapphira was their love for money and the praises of others. Once the love of money and human praise takes possession of a person, that spirit becomes open to all kinds of satanic evil.

God desires His people to speak truth about their neighbours, and imagine no evil against them. However, today, when some see their neighbours' possessions, not knowing what they had to go through to obtain such things, the money wonder becomes a factor. The last commandment given of the ten, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's." The conflict today between neighbours on the street, during the commute, or associates, when they see them with something they have or possess, "Where did they get the money?" All must guard their heart and minds from such a lifestyle.

Our senses can get in trouble with money. Every day, we hear and see the offering of ways to make money. Some sound so simple, and other methods that are quite complex. However, the reward will include risks. It may hurt others, even the ones we say we love, but who is behind it is the question, and is it worth it? In Mark eight, verse thirty-six, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" What a person would do to make money. Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him, is recognized beside every scripture in the Bible where his name is found.

In Matthew twenty-six, verse fourteen, "Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time, he sought opportunity to betray him." This means Judas accepted the offer, and the enemy, now operating within him.

Judas asked. He hears and sees the money he will be getting and starts to carry out the plan. Judas was one of the twelve disciples who witnessed the miracles and followed Jesus as He ministered, and all was forgotten until money was offered to him comes into the situation. Today, there are money people who choose to do some senseless things that are not even worth the money to put their life in jeopardy, like what Judas did to the Son of God.

The Judas story is so sad. In Mark fourteen, verse eleven, "And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him." Who were glad? The chief priests: the religious leaders, who are supposed to be serving God, doing right to the Son of God. However, who was really behind all of this? Satan, the devil, and those who are spiritually blind could not see what they were really doing and who was operating within them because it came about through the offering of money, known as Mammon, which is an ungodly spirit. There are several major things money cannot buy: Love, time, health, Knowledge, solutions, loyalty, and happiness. God does not need money to do things for His people. However, those who are not close to God tend to think so. Also, these same people who claim to serve God do not understand that all things are theirs, as in First Corinthians three, verse twenty-one, and therefore do not have it.