

# Money

1 Timothy 6:9-10

Introduction: We are going to use our Bibles to learn a few basic lessons about the use of money. In particular, we are going to learn how to acquire wealth and how to use it wisely. We are going to learn how to save money and how to get ahead. At the same time, we are going to learn the biggest detriment to accumulating wealth.

## I. The source of our wealth.

A. Our wealth comes from God (Deut. 8:18, 1 Chron. 29:12). We often forget God controls all. If we have money, it's not because we work hard to get it. It's because God allows us to work hard to acquire it. God allows us to gain wealth even if we don't work hard to acquire it. Our income is dependent upon God's good favor. This is a lesson lost on the envious.

B. The Lord wants us to work (2 Thess. 3:10-12). This passage commands us to work or there are consequences:

1. If we don't work, we don't deserve to eat.
2. If we don't work, we are in direct violation of God's command.

C. Working keeps us out of trouble and gives us a purpose (Eph. 4:28). Working keeps us busy so we won't have time to cause problems and it gives us the means to share the fruits of our labor that the Lord provides.

## II. Don't put trust in the wealth God allows us to acquire. (Money is a tool.)

A. We should trust in God who gives income to us (1 Tim. 6:17). If the Lord blesses us richly, then we should act responsibly with the wealth He gives us by sharing with others (vs. 18-19).

B. Why can't we trust in riches?

1. Because riches are uncertain but God is certain to give us what we need.

2. Because money is the root of all evil (1 Tim. 6:9-10). Just the desire to be rich is enough to fall into temptation whether we have money or not! Poor people struggle with this more than any others. Therefore, we must be careful with money. If we are not careful:

- a. We can fall into temptation.
- b. We can harm ourselves both spiritually and physically.
- c. We can cause ourselves grief and trouble.
- d. Worst of all, we can lose our souls.

3. Because we will fall if we trust in riches (Prov. 11:28).

### III. How do we get ahead without falling?

A. The simple answer is by being satisfied with what we have (Heb. 13:5, 1 Tim. 6:8, Phil. 4:11, Luke 3:14).

B. It's when we want more and get greedy that we will lose money rather than gain.

1. Greed will bring home trouble (Prov. 15:27).

2. Those who want to get rich quick will be punished (Prov. 28:20).

This is why gambling is wrong. It's an effort to get rich quickly. But someone will say, "I know a lot of rich greedy people!" But do you know a lot of rich greedy Christians?

3. Get rich quick schemes will only cause poverty (Prov. 28:22).

Those who gamble can be characterized as evil in this way. Not just gamblers, but all those who want wealth quickly. Some play the stock market for this purpose by selling short (also known as day trading). Playing the lottery is evil for the same reason. Instead of riches and winning, they lose and go into poverty and despair.

4. Even when the gambler wins, he is never satisfied (Eccl. 5:10).

a. He doesn't understand the foolishness of his actions

(Prov. 12:11). Frivolity means irresponsibility and self-indulgent.

b. In the end, it takes away his life as he knew it (Prov. 1:19).

c. Something like 80% of those who win big eventually go into poverty.

5. Remember, 1 Tim. 6:10, "*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*" It has been reported that a brother in Christ won \$5000.00 gaming and left the church as a result. It happens. What would you give in exchange for your soul (Matt. 16:26)?

C. We must mortify covetousness (Luke 12:15; Col. 3:5).

D. Avoid debt whenever possible (Rom. 13:7-8; Prov. 22:26-27).

E. If we truly want to get ahead there is but one way (Prov. 10:22). Seek God's blessings and you will truly become rich.

Conclusion: According to God's Word, if you want to acquire wealth, seek God's favor that you may work. Remembering that if God so blesses you with wealth to use it wisely by sharing and helping those who are in need. Save you money from get rich quick schemes like gambling or the consequences could cause you to lose your soul. The greatest hindrance to getting rich is wealth itself. Don't trust in riches, trust the Lord and seek His blessings.