

NOT A LOVER OF MONEY

1 Timothy 3.2-3: Now the leader is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

How we treat money is an important theme throughout the entirety of the Bible.

There are approximately 500 verses in the Bible on prayer.

There are well over _____ verses on money and possessions.

Many scholars believe Jesus talked about money and possessions more than any other subject.

They all agree it's within his top _____ favorite topics.

What does it mean to be a lover of money?

It means we treat money the way we treat the people we love – we _____ about it often, we care deeply about how it's doing, we check up on it regularly, we become _____ when we think it's in danger or we're about to lose it, and we think we'll be happy if we have enough of it in our lives.

Some of us love money because we see it

as independence and _____;

as something that makes us feel secure;

as a way of determining if we're winning or losing (our worth);

as a source of _____.

Paul later in his first epistle to Timothy tells us that the love of money is dangerous to the well-being of our souls and to our relationship with God.

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. 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.

The Bible doesn't say that money is evil, but that the love of money is.

The Scriptures never use this image, but I think they teach that money is like _____ -- neither good nor bad, but always powerful, and always a bit dangerous.

So, when Jesus teaches about money, he gives us many warnings.

Matthew 19.23: It is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Luke 16:13: You cannot serve God and money.

Luke 12.15: Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.

WHAT MONEY CANNOT DO

The Diener Satisfaction with Life Scale (1-7):

Forbes magazine's richest 400: ____.

The Pennsylvania Amish: ____.

The Inuits: ____.

The Maasai: ____.

WHAT MONEY CAN DO

A. NEGATIVELY

1. Money can _____ us.

Luke 12.21: This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.

Why does God call the man in this parable a fool?

Because all his life he was distracted – by work, by money and by possessions from what matters most: the care of his soul, his relationship with God, and how to become a person of wisdom and truth and _____.

2. Money can _____ us.

The fool in the parable that Jesus told thought he was _____.

If the game of life is about being compassionate and caring and honest and loyal, if life is about loving others and loving God, then nobody but a fool would use money to keep score in the game of life.

Luke 12.15: Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.

Matthew 6.24: No one can serve two masters. 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 both God and Mammon.

Jesus knew that either we would master money or it would master us.

He taught if we let money distract us and deceive us, it will _____ us and it will destroy us because we will look to it and trust it for the good life instead of looking to and trusting in God.

B. POSITIVELY

1. Money can _____ God.

John Wesley: It may be used ill: and what may not? But it may likewise be used well.

In the hands of God's children, it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, raiment for the naked. It gives to the traveller and the stranger where to lay his head. By it we may supply the place of an husband to the widow, and of a father to the fatherless.

We may be a defence for the oppressed, a means of health to the sick, of ease to them that are in pain; it may be as eyes to the blind, as feet to the lame; yea, a lifter up from the gates of death!

The Gospel tells us what matters most to God are people. And it tells us that God has a particular concern for the _____, the ill, the hurting, the outcast and the unwanted.

God's love language – caring for the least, the lost, the hurting and the hopeless.

2. Money can bring you _____.

David Bach: Before I figure out how much money my clients may need for their futures, I first help them try to get a clear idea of what they see as their purpose in life – what matters *most to them*. What are their values?

The sooner you start putting your values first—and stuff second—the sooner you will start living a life that excites and empowers you. Instead of having to “motivate yourself” to do the right things, you find yourself being pulled in the right direction by the power of your values. Stuff may be nice, but it rarely pulls us anywhere worthwhile. Only values do that.

If you know God and you have given your life to Christ, your value system has been changed.

More than anything else in this world, you want your life to count for _____; you want others to know the joy of being loved and forgiven and the certainty of an eternity with God.

Money given to God's work will bring you the joy and fulfillment that comes from living out your deepest values and your core beliefs.

WHAT MONEY WILL ALWAYS DO

Money will always _____.

Matthew 6.21: For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

What you do with your treasure always reveals where your heart is.

Money is defined as a “medium of _____.”

But it's not just exchanging bills or coins for goods and services.

It's exchanging your life for what you think is _____.

That means money is a _____ for the soul.

What we do with our money will reveal (1) what or who we trust, (2) what we want out of life, and (3) what or who we worship.

As people make more money, they are more likely to give to a charity of some sort.

37% of people making under \$25,000 give to a charity.

____% of people making over \$160,000 give to a charity.

But as people make more money, they are more likely to give a smaller percentage of their income to charities.

People making less than \$25K who give to a charity donate 12% of their income.

People making over \$160K who give to a charity donate _____ of their income.

From Philanthropy.com for Zip Code 77381

People making under \$25,000 gave 10.17% of their income to charities and churches.

People making between \$25-50,000 gave _____%.

People making \$50-75,000 gave 3.90%.

People making \$75-100,000 gave 3.54%.

People making \$100-200k gave _____%.

People making over \$200k gave _____%.

When we have little, we turn to God, ask for his help, trust him and respond with gratitude.

But the more we get, the more vigilant we will need to be about its effect on our lives.

If we don't, what God meant for good in our lives we will turn into an _____.

How do you change your heart?

Change what you do with your money – _____ generously and sacrificially.

Mission Trip to Honduras: Nov. 11-14.

For details, go to: <https://www.thewoodlandsmethodist.org/event/1558> or go to www.thewoodlandsmethodist.org, then to ministries, then to missions. Scroll down and click on Find a Trip.