

Beware of the Love of Money!

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **things that are taboo to talk about: religion, politics, money**
 - this lesson talks about one of them – your money
- **illus. : Judas**, wanted to sell perfume used to anoint Jesus' body before His death, under the pretense of using it to help the poor, but really wanted to steal the money
- **illus. today: financial corruption in the news** – John Douglas made these observations, thought good sermon
 - few years ago: **Enron and World Com**, people went to prison, financial corruption
 - **Bernie Madoff and others**, financial ponzi schemes, steal billions of \$
 - ruin people's lives, for personal gain

➤ Followers of Christ don't love money

- **Christians v. world**
 - **2 Tim. 3:2** sinful men, lovers of money
 - word incorporates *phileo*, affection for money
- - **Heb. 13:5** Christians' character, free from the love of money
 - word incorporates *phileo*, not have affection for money
- - **1 Cor. 16:22** Christians love (*phileo*) **God rather than money**
 - **Matt. 6:24** can't serve 2 masters, love one and despise other
- **questions:**
 - Are your affections toward God, such that there is no room to love money?
 - Do you love God so much, you can't love money, or anything else that's sinful?

➤ - Paul's teaching on money

- **1 Tim. 6:6-8** true wealth
 - vs. 6 godliness is what makes us rich
 - vs. 7-8 not material possessions
 - **question:**
 - Would you be content with a little food and just the clothes on your back – nothing else?
- - **1 Tim. 6:9-10** the desire to be rich results in temptation, snare, ruin, destruction – sin
 - vs. 10 love of money, root of evil – results in many different types of evil
 - vs. 10 longing for money, wander from truth, pierce self with many griefs
 - **questions:**
 - Do you want to be happy? don't desire to be rich, don't love money
 - Do you want to be faithful? don't desire to be rich, don't love money
 - Do you want to lose your soul? desire to be rich, love money
- - **1 Tim. 6:11-12a** flee these things, fight
 - How? change heart, lesson last Sunday night
- - **1 Tim. 6:17-19** if you have money. . . .
 - don't love, spend – do good
 - store up treasure in heaven – how – by sharing
 - **Lk. 12:33-34** (Jesus) "Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

➤ **Examples:**

- **elders and deacons**

- **Tit. 1:7b; 1 Tim. 3:3b qualifications of elders:** not love money, not fond of sordid gain

- **1 Pet. 5:2** elders, shepherd flock, not for sordid gain

- **define:**

- **love of money:** above (word incorporates *phileo*, affection for money)

- **sordid gain:** eager to get money through sinful means

- **1 Tim. 3:8b qualifications of deacons:** not found of sordid gain

- **elders and deacons:**

- not do something sinful for money

- not take advantage of others for money

➤ - **benevolent Christians**

- **Acts 4:36-37** example of those who didn't love money: sold land, gave \$ to apostles, to take care of the poor

- **some people impoverished themselves** to do the work (apostles)

- **others took their wealth and used it** (1 Cor. 8-9, Macedonia)

- **today:**

- **brother who preaches the gospel rather than works secular job to make more money**

- **brother who lives below his means to have money to share**

- **brother who sells something and shares the profits with needy**

- **take early redemption** from IRA or 401k, pay penalty and taxes, give to poor brethren

➤ - **Pharisees**

- **Lk. 16:13-15** Pharisees, lovers of money, scoffed at Jesus when he taught on wealth

- **examples:**

- **Matt. 23:14** devour widows' house, make long prayers as pretense

- **Mk. 7:11** claimed what they had was **corban** (dedicated to God), did not help their parents, break command of God to keep man-made religious tradition

- **Do people do the same thing today?**

- dedicate \$ to something, overspend, not give as should on Lord's day

➤ - **false teachers**

- **Tit. 1:10-11** false teachers, teach their doctrines for sordid gain

- **illus.: Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8)**, tried to buy the ability to give people miraculous power, obviously for the reason of selling it to others – lover of money, sordid gain

- **illus.: prosperity theology / prosperity gospel**

- **sow a seed doctrine:** sending money to televangelist or preacher or church, God give you abundance of money and material possessions – usually charismatic churches, miracles

- Kenneth Copeland, Creflo Dollar, Kenneth Hagin, Benny Hinn, T.D. Jakes, Joyce Meyer, Joel Osteen, Rod Parsley, Peter Popoff

- Pat Robertson calls it the "Law of Reciprocity" on the 700 Club

- **the only people who prospers as a result of the people giving**, are the preachers, their families, and their employees

- **we decide where to place our desires, and what to love** – money, God

- **What decision have you made regarding your desires, and your love?**

- **How is your decision to love God, and shun the love of money, evident in your life?**

➤ **Beware: sordid gain isn't always illegal**

- **Jn. 2:13-16** Jesus drove out moneychangers, merchants, and animals, made God's house a place of business

- **not illegal (civil) to exchange money and sell merchandise in temple, but not lawful with God**

- **illus.: today, many make their churches places of business – legal with man, not God**

- sell merchandise, charge for teaching materials and seminars, take care of children and the poor for a profit

- some churches get tax \$ for their charities

- some churches have even kept orphans from being adopted by families, just so they continue to get money

- **illus.: today, people engage in sinful activities to make a profit – legal with man, not God**

- abortion clinics and doctors

- pornography

- bars, clubs, selling of alcohol

- **some legal enterprises are sordid gain, for the love of money**

- **Christians judge the legitimacy of an activity not by man's standard, but God's standard**

➤ **Beware: once a person is hurt by sordid gain, it often can't be fixed**

- **illus.: Judas**, agreed to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, then was sorry and tried to give money back, not allowed, couldn't stop Jesus' crucifixion of he wanted, committed suicide

- **illus.: a abortion doctor** convinces a minor to have an abortion against her parent's will, can't undo the abortion

- **illus.: Bernie Madoff and others** who stole from people with ponzi schemes, can't return money, people's lives are ruined, broke, bankrupt, have to sell house, start over, some are too old to make any money now

- **if we love money, people will be hurt by our sin**

- **often times the consequences of our sin run far and deep**, and can't be corrected, this is often times the case with sins associated with the love of money – sordid gain

- **can repent and be forgiven**, but often unable to undo the sin

➤ **Beware: you have to give your life to God, before you can stop loving money – not desire to be rich**

- **Matt. 10:37-39; 16:24-27** love Lord more than anyone else, take up cross, lose life to find it, what profit if lose soul, what give in exchange for soul

- **explain each phrase and illustrate**

- **illus.: a mastermind criminal, responsible for a high price prostitution ring, once said: "Everyone has their price!"**

- **Do you have a price for which you will sin?**

- **Have you lost your life, in order to find it?** - free of the desire to be rich, love of money

- **Do you love the Lord more than anything or anyone in the world?** - money, material possessions

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **summary:**

- **Christians don't love money**, not involved in sordid gain
- **an activity can be legal, and still sordid gain** – depends on God's law
- **if we love money, we're going to hurt people** because of our sin
- **have to give your life to God, to stop loving money**

- **inv.:**

- **have you given your life to God – 100%**