

THE BLE\$\$SED LIFE
Week 1: The Greed Principle
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



RECAP

In this first sermon discussing how money can lead to happiness and blessing (just not in the way we think), Josh walked through the dangerous pitfalls that pursuing money can have on the things that matter the most to us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your relationship with money growing up? Did you grow up poor or wealthy? What lessons did your parents teach you about money and its value?
2. Josh started by sharing a story of traveling to Mozambique and getting angry at the poorest Christians he'd ever met being happier than he was. Has there ever been a time when you were overwhelmed with how rich you were or when others in more difficult circumstances seemed happier and more content than you were?
3. The pervading myth fueling our society is that money equals happiness. How have you bought into that over the years? What things did you buy or financial decisions did you make when you were younger thinking it would lead to ultimate happiness? What was the result?
4. Read 1 Timothy 6:9-10. Josh makes the argument that the pursuit of money is a gateway drug that can lead to long-term destruction and ruin. It's the Greed Principle: The more you get, the less you have. How have you seen this played out either in your life or in the lives of those close to you? How has the pursuit of money ruined the lives of those you know?
5. Walk through the 3 Ways to Loosen the Death Grip Money Has on You. What are some practical and specific ways you can apply each of the three ways in your life and in the life of your family?
 - Put yourself on a 'diet'.
 - Spend time leaning into things money can't buy.
 - Start becoming a giver.

NEXT STEP

- As a group, what is something that you could give to together that could make a difference in someone's life? Determine a plan and then give! *(If you have stories you'd like to share, please email the address below).*

For more information (training and support) on how to start and lead a small group, contact steve.lizzio@cbcva.org



CENTREVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2018

WEEK 1: THE GREED PRINCIPLE

1 TIMOTHY 6:9-10, LUKE 12:13-15, MATTHEW 5:3-10

The Greed Principle: **The more you _____, the less you _____.**

3 WAYS TO LOOSEN THE DEATH GRIP MONEY HAS ON YOU

1. Put yourself on a '_____.'
2. Spend time leaning into things money _____.
3. Start becoming a _____.

Bonus Content

Sunday (This Handout) - 7 Questions Worksheet on 1 Timothy 6:9-10 and Small Group Questions for this week
Monday (Blog) - The Greed Principle: The More You Get, the Less You Have
Tuesday (Blog) - 3 Ways to Loosen the Death Grip Money Has on You
Wednesday (Facebook Live) - When I Went to the Dominican Republic and Won the Lottery

For bonus content and much more, visit: joshdaffern.com

1 TIMOTHY 6:9-10

joshdaffern.com

9 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. 10 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.
1 Timothy 6:9-10

1. WHAT DID IT MEAN TO THE ORIGINAL READERS?

If you start with today you're twenty centuries too late.

In 1 Timothy 6:9-10 Paul is giving Timothy a deep truth about life and the powerfully dangerous allure of money. He is not indicating that the possession of riches leads to such destruction, but the desire of such riches. Thus this is a warning for all humans, because the desire for riches is universal. Paul's warning against the desire for material riches is that this seemingly innocent desire has hidden dangers and unintended consequences. Think of the desire for riches as a gateway drug that will inevitably lead down dark and destructive paths. That's what Paul is describing when he says that the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and Christians are not immune to this.

Paul warns that even believers can "wander from the faith." The picture Paul is painting is of a gradual or slow disbelief, where a believer who once trusted in Christ for all of his or her needs slowly begins to put the weight of their trust in themselves, to the point where their actual faith in Christ is virtually nonexistent. Paul's motive behind this isn't to throttle or restrict Christian's enjoyment of material wealth in this world, but rather to protect them from the "many griefs" that can pierce someone, even a believer, whose life is wrapped around the pursuit of wealth. It is too common of a sight for marriages, families and friendships to fracture when money becomes the fixated pursuit of those involved. The things that are eternal: Jesus, your eternal soul, the relationships you have with your loved ones, are not worth sacrificing on the altar of the momentary and fleeting pursuit of temporal issues. The price is too high to pay, and those who fixate on riches will eventually lose everything they truly hold dear.

GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

φιλαργυρία (*philarguria*) translated into English as "love of money" and is at the heart of Paul's warning against the dangerous temptations of money. This usage is the only instance when this word is used in the Greek New Testament. It's a compound of two Greek words, and these words help give us the best picture behind this word: "friend" and "silver." It is an insatiable greed for riches, and all consuming covetousness for more and more wealth. Paul warns against this at all costs.

2. WHAT'S THE CONTEXT? *Scripture without context makes no sense.*

The greater context of 1 Timothy 6:9-10 is a letter Paul wrote to a young Christian leader, giving him instruction and guidance in his personal life and ministry. In chapter 6 Paul gives a strong warning to Timothy to be on the look out for false teachers who would try and manipulate religion as a means to financial gain. Paul weaves that warning into a larger conversation about the corrupting potential that the love of money can have on individuals. With today's modern context of people still using the cloak of religion as a means towards financial gain, Paul's warnings remain relevant even today.

3. WHAT TIMELESS TRUTHS ARE THERE?

Since the Word doesn't change it still matters today.

- Money itself is morally neutral, but the love of money (or the desire for riches) can lead to many griefs and harmful desires.
- The love of money is a gateway drug that can lead to all kinds of evil.
- Christians are not immune to the dangerous allure of the love of money.
- The dangerous lie of money is that if you have enough, you will feel secure. But the goalposts will always keep moving just out of reach. You will never feel fully secure with money because it is not a source of security.

5. HOW DOES IT APPLY TODAY? *Information without application becomes stagnation.*

- Money is a useful servant but a terrible master.
- The allure of money is a siren call that will only lead to your eventual harm and destruction.
- Family and your close relationships are not worth sacrificing on the altar of the pursuit of wealth.
- The love of money is dangerous because it tempts us to place our trust in it, rather than placing our trust in God. The pursuit of money can cause us to wander from our faith.
- Giving is the antidote to greed and breaks the dangerous power that money has over us.
- Godliness with contentment is great gain.

7. HOW CAN MY LIFE GET BETTER BECAUSE OF THESE VERSES? *If I trust God and step in faith, what kind of life will God create?*

Imagine a life of godliness and contentment, where your trust in God is ever-increasing because He has proved faithful time and time again. Imagine your faith growing more and more powerful as you trust in God, not in your riches. Imagine how life-giving your relationships would be because you invest the time and emotional presence needed to see them thrive. Imagine the contentment that would flow through you when you step out of the rat race and simply enjoy the blessings you already have without coveting for a little bit more. Imagine the impact you will begin to have on your world when you become a giver, leveraging your wealth for the benefit and transformation of those around you.

4. WHERE ELSE IN SCRIPTURE DOES IT SAY THIS? *The best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture.*

25 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. *Matthew 6:24*

5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." *Hebrews 13:5*

6. HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE THE WAY I LIVE IN COMMUNITY? *The Bible comes alive in me when I live it in community.*

- What has been a time when the love (or pursuit) of money has led you to decisions you now wish you could take back? Have you ever experienced the love of money destroying lives or relationships?
- What are specific ways that Christians can protect themselves from the dangerous allure of the love of money and cultivate contentment in their own lives?