

1 **Ten biblical principles about money and wealth**2 **The Bible teaches us to love God, not our money**3 **The underlying theme of this seminar**

- The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith. 1 Timothy 1:5 (NLT)

4 **Principle #3. Beware of the love of money**

- Key Bible passages
- 9 warning signs that we're falling in love with our money
- 14 consequences of falling in love with money
- 5 consequences of greed (covetousness)
- 31 examples of greed in the Bible
- 7 godly attitudes towards money
- The most important thing

5 **Key Bible passages**

- 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

- People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men 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. 1 Timothy 6:9-10

- "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 Money. Matt 6:24

6 **9 warning signs that we might be falling in love with our money**7 **1. The desire to get money unjustly**

- "Woe to him who builds his realm by unjust gain to set his nest on high, to escape the clutches of ruin! Habakkuk 2:9

- Food gained by fraud tastes sweet to a man, but he ends up with a mouth full of gravel. Proverbs 20:17

8 **2. Refusal to help those in need**

- Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow" --when you now have it with you. Proverbs 3:27-28

9 **3. Discontentment**

- 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

- "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things." 2 Cor 6:10

10 **4. Not wanting to work for our money**

■The sluggard's craving will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work. All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing. Proverbs 21:25-26

11 **5. Inordinate preoccupation with money**

■For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. 1 Timothy 6:10 (NLT)

12 **6. Greed, jealousy or covetness**

■Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15

■But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. James 3:14-16 (NLT2)

■When you want a piece of land, you find a way to seize it. When you want someone's house, you take it by fraud and violence. You cheat a man of his property, stealing his family's inheritance. Micah 2:2 (NLT2)

■Ahab coveted Naboth's vineyard

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13 **7. Stinginess**

■A stingy man is eager to get rich and is unaware that poverty awaits him. Proverbs 28:22

14 **8. Entertaining bribes**

■Be careful that no one entices you by riches; do not let a large bribe turn you aside. Job 36:18

15 **9. Unwillingness to live on less than we make**

■Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16 (ESV)

16 **14 Consequences of falling in love with money**17 **1. We may choose the wrong priorities**

■And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said to him,

"Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Mark 10:17-22 (ESV)

18 **2. It leads to all manner of evil**

■ People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men 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. Tim 6:10 (ESV)

19 **3. It suffocates interest in spiritual things**

■ And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. Luke 8:14 (ESV)

20 **4. It retards spiritual maturity**

■ "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. Luke 8:11-15

21 **5. We may be guilty of divided affections**

■ "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 Money. Matt 6:24

22 **6. We fall into a form of idolatry**

■ "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 Money. Matt 6:24

■ Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

1 Corinthians 10:14

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23 **7. It is a form of adultery**

■ You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. James 4:4

24 **8. The love of the Father is not in us**

■Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. 1 John 2:15-16

25 **9. It can lead to discontentment**

■Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." Heb 13:5 (NLT)

26 **10. It will never satisfy us**

■Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness! Eccl 5:10

27 **11. It can destroy us**

■But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. 1 Tim 6:9

28 **12. It is a threat to our precious faith**

■For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. 1 Tim 6:10 (NLT)

29 **13. Our life may be full of problems**

■For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. 1 Tim 6:10

30 **14. It will disqualify one as an elder or deacon**

■So an elder must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach. He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money. 1 Timothy 3:2-3 (NLT)

31 **Greed (covetousness)**

32 **The love of money and greed are close relatives**

33 **6 consequences of greed (covetousness)**

34 **Greed can plunge us into ruin and destruction**

■But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. 1 Timothy 6:9-10 (NLT)

35 **God will consider us a fool**

■Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a

man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'" Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."' "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'" This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." Luke 12:15-21

36 **Greed is a form of idolatry and may bring God's wrath on us**

■ So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. Colossians 3:5-6 (NLT)

37 **Greed may leave us unprepared to face God's coming judgement**

■ They will throw their silver into the streets, and their gold will be an unclean thing. Their silver and gold will not be able to save them in the day of the LORD's wrath. They will not satisfy their hunger or fill their stomachs with it, for it has made them stumble into sin. Eze 7:19

38 **Greed may cause us to pursue worthless things**

■ Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. Psalm 119:36-37

39 **Greed may cost us an inheritance in the Kingdom of God**

■ You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Eph 5:5 (NLT)

■ Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. 1 Cor 6:9-10 (NLT)

40 **31 Examples of greed and covetousness in the Bible Source: internet**

41 **Examples of greed and covetness**

■ Eve, in desiring the forbidden fruit Gen 3:6

■ Lot, in choosing the plain of the Jordan Gen 13:10-13

■ Laban-

▸ In giving Rebekah to be Isaac's wife Gen 24:29- 51

▸ In deceiving Jacob when he served him seven years for Rachel Gen 29:15-30

▸ In deceiving Jacob in wages Gen 31:7; Gen 31:15; Gen 31:41-42 >

42 **Examples of greed and covetness**

- Jacob:
 - In defrauding Esau of his father's blessing Gen 27:6-29
 - In defrauding Laban of his flocks and herds Gen 30:35-43
 - In buying Esau's birthright Gen 25:31
- Balaam, in loving the wages of unrighteousness 2 Pet 2:15; Num 22
- Achan, in hiding the forbidden treasure
Josh 7:21 >

43 **Examples of greed and covetness**

- Eli's sons, in taking the flesh of the sacrifice 1 Sam 2:13-17
- Samuel's sons, in taking bribes 1 Sam 8:3
- Saul, in sparing Agag and the booty 1 Sam 15:8-9
- David, of Bathsheba 2 Sam 11:2-5
- Ahab, in desiring Naboth's vineyard 1 Kings 21:2- 16 >

44 **Examples of greed and covetness**

- Gehazi, in taking a gift from Naaman 2 Kin 5:20-27
- Jews--
 - In exacting usury of their brethren Neh 5:1-11
 - In keeping back the portion of the Levites Neh 13:10
 - In building fine houses while the house of the Lord lay waste Hag 1:4-9
 - In following Jesus for the loaves and fishes John 6:26 >

45 **Examples of greed and covetness**

- Money changers in the temple Matt 21:12-13; Luke 19:45-46; John 2:14-16
- The rich young ruler Matt 19:16-22
- The rich fool Luke 12:15-21
- Judas, in betraying Jesus for thirty pieces of silver Matt 26:15-16; Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:3-6; John 12:6
- The unjust steward Luke 16:1-8 >

46 **Examples of greed and covetness**

- The Pharisees Luke 16:14
- Simon Magus, in trying to buy the gift of the Holy Ghost Acts 8:18-23
- The sorcerers, in filing complaint against Paul and Silas Acts 16:19
- Demetrius, in raising a riot against Paul and Silas Acts 19:24; Acts 19:27
- Festus, in hoping for a bribe from Paul Acts 24:26
- Demas, in forsaking Paul for love of the world 2 Tim 4:10 > end of list

47 **Quiz**

- Create one or more quizzes that deal with this module
- Usually 4 or 5 choices or statements work best for each quiz

■After allowing a minute or two for the students to complete the quiz, go over the answers. For false statements, ask the class what change could be made to make the statement true

48 **Questions for discussion**

- How would you define the difference between the love of money and greed (covetness)?
- Do you have a story about a Christian who fell victim to love of money or greed? Was there a happy ending?
- What warning signs of greed or love of money have you detected within your heart? How did you deal with them?

49 **7 godly attitudes towards money**

- Don't make becoming rich our passion or purpose
- Keep in mind that God owns all we possess, and seek His purposes for them
- Thank God daily for our blessings
- Be content with what we have
- Practice living on less than we make
- Be ready to share our resources with others who are in need, particularly our Christian family
- If God does entrust us with financial blessings, develop a (written) plan for stewarding them >

50 **The most important thing**

51 **Summary**

- The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.
- Greed and love of money are both enemies of our soul
- We do well to examine ourselves for the warning signs of falling in love with our money and evidence that we are cultivating a greedy heart
- Practice godly attitudes regarding the uses of money

52 **Multiple choice quiz**

Three of the following statements are true warning signs of greed. Which one is not a warning sign (false)?

- a. Contentment with what we have
- b. We always have overdue bills to pay
- c. We are jealous of our neighbor's scooter
- d. We constantly think about getting rich quickly

53 **Multiple choice quiz**

Three of the following statements are true of greed? Which one is false?

- a. Greed may bring God's discipline on us
- b. Greed may cost us Christian friendships
- c. Greed is an acceptable motive for achieving wealth

d. Greed will prevent us from inheriting God's Kingdom

54 **Ten biblical principles about money and wealth**