



9/24/2023 AM

Introduction:

Money is the acid test of your devotion to God.

I. WARNINGS FOR THOSE WHO WOULD BE RICH (vs. 9-10)

A. Six Results of the Desire to Get Rich (vs. 9)

- 1) falling into temptation
- 2) falling into a trap
- 3) falling into many foolish and harmful desires
- 4) plunging into ruin and destruction
- 5) wandering from the faith
- 6) pierced with many griefs

If you are afraid that perhaps the love of money is getting a hold on your soul, start giving some of it away and see how you feel! If you feel really glad then you are still safe, but if it almost breaks your heart then it is time to get down on your knees and pray to be freed from this sin of covetousness! It is going to ruin you unless you are delivered from it." – Harry Ironside

B. Five Questions to Determine if I Love Money (vs. 10)

- 1) Am I more concerned with making it than with honesty or doing a good job?
- 2) Do I feel like I never have enough money?
- 3) Do I tend to flaunt it and what it provides?
- 4) Do I resent giving any of it away?
- 5) Am I willing to sin in order to get more of it?

II. COMMANDMENTS FOR THOSE WHO ARE RICH (vs. 17-19)

A. Five Directives for the Proper Use of Money

- 1) Don't let your money produce pride.
- 2) Don't base your security on uncertain riches. (Proverbs 23:4-5)
- 3) Recognize that the Lord owns everything you have. (Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 4:8-10)
- 4) Study to make your contributions in other ways besides money.
- 5) Give sacrificially to the Lord - be liberal and generous. (Luke 6:38)

I Corinthians 16:1-2

- *on the first day of the week* =
- *let every one of you* =
- *should set aside a sum* =
- *set aside* =
- *in keeping with his income* =
- *saving it up* =
- *so that when I come no collections will have to be made* =

B. Seven Lessons to be Learned from Scripture

- 1) Having money is not wrong in itself - it is a gift from God.
- 2) Money must not be loved, selfishly hoarded, or indulgently spent. (Matthew 6:19-21,24; Ecclesiastes 5:10-19)
- 3) Those who have money must not be given preferential treatment. (James 2:2-4)
- 4) Believers must be willing to part with their money, if God so requires.
- 5) You must learn to distinguish wants from needs. (Hebrews 13:5-6)
- 6) Discipline yourself to spend less than you make.
- 7) Money must be used for eternal purposes.

"Money is one of the most unsatisfying of possessions. It takes away some cares, no doubt, but it brings with it quite as many cares as it takes away. There is trouble in the getting of it. There is anxiety in the keeping of it. There are temptations in the use of it. There is sorrow in the losing of it. There is perplexity in the disposing of it. Two-thirds of all the strife, quarrels, and lawsuits in the world, arise from one simple cause - money." — J.C. Ryle

Conclusion:

- 1) Money never brings satisfaction.
- 2) An unbalanced desire for money will deceive and will ultimately destroy you.
- 3) The pursuit of money chokes off spiritual life.
- 4) The possession of money gives rise to many sins.
- 5) The proper use of money can lead to some of the greatest spiritual joys in life.

Food for Thought:

- 1) What is my purpose in making money?
- 2) Am I willing to sin in order to get more of it?
- 3) Am I using my money properly?
- 4) Do I resent being asked to give any of my money away?