

## The Love of Money

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by Bill Crews

The love of money can lead anyone into all kinds of sin (1 Tim. 6:9-10), can keep anyone from ever becoming a disciple of Christ (Mk. 10:17-25), can keep any man from being qualified to serve as an elder or a deacon (1 Tim. 3:3,8), can keep anyone from being a faithful Christian (Acts 5:1-11), and can keep anyone out of heaven (1 Cor. 6:10).

Balaam was so in love with the hire of wrong-doing (paid to do wrong) that he was willing to do just about anything to obtain it (Num. 22-24; 25:1-9; 31:1-8, 16; Rev. 2:14); he died with the enemies of God's people (Num. 31:8). Judas was so in love with money that he was willing to go to the enemies of Christ and ask what they would pay him to betray his Lord into their hands (Matt. 26:14-16); read of his awful fate in Matt. 27:3-5; Acts 1:18-19; Matt. 27:6-10). Ananias and Sapphira were so in love with money that they were unwilling to give what they said they were giving and lied to the apostles, the Holy Spirit and God (Acts 5:1-11); for this they lost their lives and their souls.

God, through Paul; said to Timothy and to all who will listen: "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil; which some reaching after have been led astray from the faith, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows"(1 Tim.6:10, ASV). The preceding verse contains this warning: "For they that are minded to be rich fall into a temptation and a snare and many foolish and hurtful lusts such as drown men in destruction and perdition." "Follow the money"; this is an expression that men have coined. It but echoes the warning of God in regard to "the love of money." So often people willingly choose a course that they know is wrong (because it is unethical, dishonest, unjust, immoral, illegal) for money! They will take risks, cheat others, defy God, break civil laws for money!

Legislators will break the very laws they have passed, judges who are sworn to mete out justice will make unjust rulings, law enforcement officials will violate the very laws they are sworn to uphold for money! Citizens will cheat on their tax returns, athletes will lose games or contests, contractors will build faulty buildings, inspectors will pass unsafe construction, customers will cheat businesses and businesses will cheat customers for money! Every federal endowment or benefit or funding has presented temptations to the public, to professionals and to businesses to be dishonest for money! We read of welfare fraud, Medicare and Medicaid fraud, highway funds fraud, military funds fraud, housing funds fraud, and on and on. The greater the amount of money available, the greater and more widespread the temptation to cheat for money!

Why do people become thieves, burglars and robbers? For money! Why do women, men and boys prostitute their bodies to the sexual desires of others? For money! Why do some force the young, naive and vulnerable into prostitution? For money! Why is gambling so prevalent and successful? Because the gambling operators know there is so much money to be made from their customers, and the gullible and naive customers keep losing their money in hopes of winning more! Some addicted gamblers resort to crimes of various kinds to support their habit. Why have many nations been plagued with problems involving mind-altering and addictive drugs? Because of the easy and sizable money that can be made in selling them! Many drug addicts turn to crime to pay for their addiction. Young women with beautiful bodies will prostitute their bodies by "topless," "exotic" and "nude" dancing to the ogling and lustful gazes of males for money! Or they will pose naked in all manner of obscene poses before bright lights and cameras for money! Why will men and women, sometimes using innocent children, produce all manner of pornographic pictures and videos? Again, for money!

Truly the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. We need to cry out against the love of money and the sins prompted by it. We need to emphasize God's will.

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