

“A Godly Mindset Toward Money”

1 Timothy 6:3-19

Sermon Series: “This Is Us”

Introduction: If we are truly followers of Jesus, every area of our lives is under His Lordship. This includes our finances. We are stewards of the blessings He gives us. The Bible is the blueprint for how we are to live under His Lordship. Jesus wants us to learn to think biblically in every area of our lives so we will live obediently. So what characterizes a godly mindset toward money?

1. We are to avoid false teachers who teach that godliness is a means of material gain (v. 3-5). The word, “otherwise,” is translated from a Greek work that means, “another of a different kind,” and is used here to refer “to something diametrically opposed to what is right” (Wuest). They were teaching the opposite of Jesus and true, biblical doctrine, and this was leading to spiritual sickness instead of spiritual health. In particular, they were teaching that being godly leads to material gain. We are told to withdraw from that type of teacher. Napoleon Bonaparte captured this essence of this kind of teacher when he said, “I am surrounded by priests who repeat incessantly that their kingdom is not of this world and yet they lay their hands on everything they can get.”

2. We are to be content (v. 6-8). Verse 6 really presents a contrast to the previous verses. The Holy Spirit is saying through Paul that true gain is godliness with contentment. Contentment is inwardly accepting our circumstances and not being controlled by what is going on outwardly (Philippians 4:10-13). It is not resignation to our circumstances and does not preclude godly ambition, but it refers to an accepting and peaceful state of mind and heart. We can be rich and content or discontent, and we can be poor and content or discontent.

3. We are to flee from the temptation to love money and passionately pursue Jesus instead (v. 9-16). The warning here is not against us having money but against money having us. The issue is not the state of our bank accounts but the state of our hearts. It is not sinful to be rich (Joseph of Arimathea was called rich and a disciple of Jesus in Scripture), but it is sinful to be greedy, love money, and make money an idol. It cannot be the ultimate pursuit of our lives. It is only a tool and a test. Jesus is enough! He is our source, satisfaction, and provision. We are to pursue Him instead of pursuing getting rich. Godliness is to be our priority over material gain. Then, if God gives us material gain, we can use it in a way that glorifies God.

4. We are to humbly trust God instead of proudly trusting money (v. 17). Money is like a trust fall. It tangibly reveals what we are trusting in. Is money a source of pride for us or are we humbly trusting the Lord? What is really our God (Matthew 6:24, 33)? Notice here that God gives us what we have and wants us to enjoy it.

5. We are to be generous (v. 18-19). In verse 18, we are commanded to do good. We fulfill this command by being “rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share.” We are preparing for eternity by doing this (Matthew 6:19-21). Ed Young Jr. says, “Want to know your net worth? Simply add up everything money can’t buy and death can’t take away.” Levi Lusko says, “We either leave our treasure or go to our treasure.”

Conclusion: Is Jesus your Lord? If not, repent of your sin and place your trust in Him today. Eternity is coming, and your money will not do you any good there. If you say that He is your Lord, are you living like He is Lord of your finances? Will you adopt and live out a biblical mindset toward money?