

MONEY

Definition: Legal medium of exchange, a measure of value, means of payment

Synonyms: Cash, Currency, Dough, Gold

Since my email goes out on Tuesdays this weekly devotion begins on Tuesdays and ends on Mondays.

Unfortunately, Christmas is a time of year when money takes on a special significance. Buying presents, preparing for parties, and Christmas bonuses! The Bible has a lot to say about money. Let's take a very brief look this week.



DAY 1 - Tuesday

“Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own” (Luke 12:15 NLT).

Greed, that doesn't apply to me. I'm not rich. I don't steal or con people out of their possessions or money. It is easy to convince ourselves we are not greedy, but are we being honest?

Do you covet what others possess? Now covet is an old-fashioned word, but ask yourself if you ever wanted a nicer car like the Smith's, or want to take vacations like the Jones's? Ever ask how someone has the money to buy something or do something? Is that greed?

When we look around we have so much, yet we still desire more. Nicer clothes, a newer car, a bigger bank account, more luxuries, or better vacations! There is nothing wrong with these things, but when our focus is more on seeking these things instead of God, we are greedy. In fact Colossians 3:5 tells us that a greedy person is an idolater!

Hebrews 13:5 tells us to be content with what we have, which is the opposite of greed. Our contentment comes from knowing God is with us always.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"THOSE WHO LOVE MONEY WILL NEVER HAVE ENOUGH" (ECCL. 5:10A).



DAY 2 – Wednesday

“Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable” (1 Timothy 6:17a).

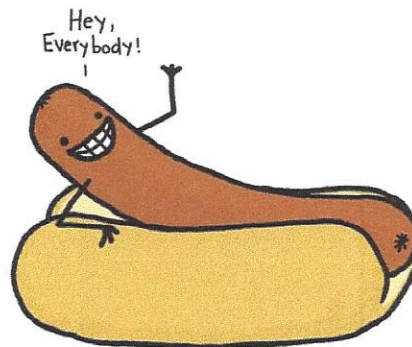
Timothy was probably leading the Ephesians church and correcting some misconceptions about faith in Jesus. Since some of the people of the church were rich, Paul is telling them not to be proud of their wealth. He is reminding the people that everything comes from God.

Pride is sin. It is what got Eve in trouble. We should be grateful for what we have and not take credit for achievements that are God’s and not ours.

Sometimes we look at evil people who attain great wealth in this world. It is hard not to be angry or resentful. Despite what they believe, their success and wealth is only because of the grace of God. We don’t understand His sovereign plan, but someday we will.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

OUR WEALTH COMES FROM GOD AND BELONGS TO GOD.



I AM AWESOME

DAY 3 - Thursday

*“They trust their wealth instead and grow more and more bold in their wickedness”
(Psalm 52:7b)*

In Wednesday’s verse, Paul continues to say that we should trust in God and not money and to use our wealth to further His kingdom and help others.

In Psalm 53 David laughs at those who trust in their wealth. David goes on to say we should trust in God’s unfailing love.

It is easy to think we are secure because we have a lot in the savings or own a lot of property and possessions. But there is no security in this world. When we have an abundance of money there is the stress of losing it all. And the Bible tells us we can’t take it with us:

“So don’t be dismayed when the wicked grow rich and their homes become even more splendid. For when they die, they take nothing with them. Their wealth will not follow them into the grave” (Ps. 49:16-17).

There money will do them no good when they face judgment.

“IN GOD WE TRUST” is printed on USA’s currency. As we hold money in our hands we are constantly reminded not to put our trust in the paper or coin we hold, but rather in the God Almighty.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

GOD IS THE ONLY TRUE SECURITY THAT PROMISES A FUTURE LIFE OF PEACE AND JOY.



DAY 4 – Friday

Today Read Mark 10: 17-27 and Mark 12: 41-44.

The young man thought he did all that was right. He obeyed laws and followed tradition. He was on the right path – or so he thought. You have to wonder why he asked Jesus this question. Was he hoping for an “atta-boy” pat on the back from Jesus?

Well, he didn’t get it. Despite his legalistic life he didn’t truly know or love God. He wasn’t willing to sacrifice what was most important to him for God. That is the crux of the story. His wealth wasn’t the problem. Putting his wealth before God was the problem.

On the other hand the old woman didn’t approach Jesus with questions. She simply loved God and was willing to give it all. It is interesting that Jesus was watching her so intently that day. He had a lot on his mind. The crucifixion was near, but his thoughts were on this elderly woman who did not rank in society at all. But in God’s world she was at the top of the heap.

Are you the young man or the old women? Do you give out of abundance or sacrifice?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

IS YOUR GIVING LEGALISTIC OR FROM THE HEART?



DAYS 5 & 6 - WEEKEND REFLECTIONS (Saturday and Sunday)

Make a list of everything you “want” then tear it up and throw it away. Pray for God to trash your desires that are not His will.

Are you proud of your home, car or other possessions? Do you let others know how much you have or where you have traveled? Take note of your conversations for a week to test your “brag” quotient and make adjustments to reduce your pride. Don’t look down upon others who don’t have as much.

Where is your trust? Do you turn to God and prayer when you have a problem or try to work it out yourself? Do you think storing up treasures provides protection, or do you know your security is with God?

Review your spending in 2017. Where do you spend most of your money or time? What percentage of your money is spent to further God’s kingdom? What percentage of your time is spent with God?

Write the following verses on cards and place them on your mirror or other places where you will see them daily. Perhaps memorize them during the next couple of weeks to help you stay on track about money during the holiday season.

“For a greedy person is an idolater, worshipping the things of this world” (Ephesians 5:5b).

“But he gives us even more grace to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, God opposes the proud but favors the humble” (James 4:6).

“for you have forgotten me, putting your trust in false gods” (Jeremiah 13:25b).

“Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others” (1 Timothy 6:18).

Day 7 – Monday

Take this day to focus on your Sunday sermon, spending additional time in prayer to prepare for your week. Tomorrow print off the next “word of the week” devotional.