

Sermon Discussion

9 August 2020

Read 1 Timothy 6:3-21 together.

Dig Deeper

Paul used a “root” as the figure to warn against greed. That root attitude bears all kinds of evil fruit in wicked actions. Note that it is the love of money, not money itself, that is the snare. It is possible to have very little money and yet to love it. Some people have much money yet do not love it. Love of money contrasts with love of God and neighbor, the two greatest commandments.

As Christians who live in a materialistic world, we must cultivate Paul’s attitude of contentment very deliberately. This is an especially difficult task in a society like the one in which we live. We are constantly hearing through advertising and the media that we “need” all kinds of luxuries. According to Paul, and Jesus, our personal needs as human beings are very few. Paul’s point was that we should seek godliness more diligently than we seek money and the things it can buy.

1. How is materialism used to blind Christians to the needs of the world?
2. Is treating money carefully opposed to not loving money? Why not?
3. Where does an obedient Christian draw the line on luxury (having anything more than the bare necessities)? What steps do you take to maintain a proper attitude toward material things while living in this culture?
4. Why do people have a tendency to look to materialism for satisfaction rather than to God? How do we fight against this tendency?
5. How might a church unintentionally show preference to wealthier members and visitors? How might this be corrected?
6. What is holding you back from giving sacrificially of your money, time, and talents to God’s work? What is holding you back from giving radically of the same things?

Application & Prayer

- This series is designed to encourage us to spend time reading the Bible. How has this sermon encouraged you to spend more time in the Bible? What one thing can you do differently this week?

- How does this discussion apply to your career, lifestyle, giving, and saving? What specific area do you need prayer?
- In what areas of your life do you struggle to be content with God's provision?