

### WARM-UP

- Tell us about one of the most expensive things you ever bought. What was it, and why did you buy it?
- If you could buy anything for someone you love, what would you buy, and why?
- Have you ever experienced saying no to an opportunity where you could have earned more money? What happened?

**WORD** *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*

**1 TIMOTHY 6:10**

People often quote this passage mistakenly, saying money is evil, but that is not what the Scriptures say. In fact, we can use money to do good things. With it we can buy the things we need, help a friend or neighbor in a difficult situation, and even send missionaries to different parts of the world to preach the Word of God. The truth is, money is a tool. However, Scripture clearly says that *the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils*. It is the craving for more that will cause us to pierce ourselves *with many pangs*. It can motivate us to exchange God's purposes for monetary gain. Since the love of money is a heart condition, it is difficult for us to detect it in ourselves. Today we will look at three questions that will help us check if we love money.

## 1 | What are you content with?

*<sup>6</sup>But godliness with contentment is great gain, <sup>7</sup>for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. <sup>8</sup>But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.* **1 TIMOTHY 6:6-8**

In Philippians 4:11, the Apostle Paul said that he has learned to be content in *whatever situation*. Contentment is not based on what we have or our situation in life. Just like Paul, we can be content whether we are in plenty or in lack. We can have only the basic necessities—*food and clothing*—and with these be content. Contentment will keep us from always wanting more. It comes with the understanding that since *we brought nothing into the world, we cannot take anything out of the world*. According to Hebrews 13:5, why can we be free from the love of money and content with what we have?

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## 2 | What do you desire?

*<sup>9</sup>But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*

**1 TIMOTHY 6:9,10**

Scripture clearly says that the desire to be rich can make us fall into a trap. It causes us to be selfish and feed *many senseless and harmful desires* in our hearts. Having simple things in life is not a guarantee that we desire God above all, in the same way that having great wealth does not guarantee contentment. Whatever our financial status in life is, if in our hearts we desire the riches of this world more than God and His purposes for our lives, we will make decisions that

will ultimately lead to our *ruin and destruction*. Share about a time when you paused and asked God to reveal the desire of your heart before making a decision involving money. What happened?

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### 3 | What are you pursuing?

*But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.*

**1 TIMOTHY 6:11**

Righteousness is received by grace through faith in Jesus. When we focus on Christ, we find true satisfaction and contentment because He provides all our needs, especially our most important need—salvation. As a result, we pursue righteousness and are no longer consumed by the love of money. We can now focus on pursuing the things of God, and we do this in the area of finances when we let Him use what we have for His purpose. According to Matthew 6:24, why can't we pursue both God and money?

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#### APPLICATION

- When was the last time you experienced being dissatisfied by what you have? What does contentment look like to you? What can you do to be truly content, whether in plenty or in lack?
- How can you avoid making financial decisions that could lead to ruin and destruction? Who can help you make wise decisions? Will you commit to ask for help?
- As believers, we can use money for God's purpose. What is God calling you to do with your money?

