

Lovers Of Money

Purpose: to encourage believers not to fall into the trap of the love of money, but instead to be rich in good works.

Is money a bad thing? Is it sinful to want to be rich? When Paul wrote to Timothy about the last days, the second thing that he mentioned was that men would be “lovers of money”:

2 Timothy 3:1,2

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, **lovers of money**, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy...

But what does the bible actually say about wealth and riches?

There are some very hard things said in scripture about rich people:

It is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven:

Mat 19:23 - Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 19:24 - And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

Beware of covetousness (greed):

Luk 12:15 - And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Luk 12:16 - Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.

Luk 12:17 - And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'

Luk 12:18 - So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.

Luk 12:19 - And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry." '

Luk 12:20 - But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

Luk 12:21 - "So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

The rich will fade away in his pursuits:

Jas 1:9 - Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation,

Jas 1:10 - but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away.

Jas 1:11 - For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

The rich are often oppressors:

Jas 2:5 - Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

Jas 2:6 - But you have dishonoured the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts?

Jas 2:7 - Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

The rich are often arrogant:

Jas 4:13 - Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit";

Jas 4:14 - whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

Jas 4:15 - Instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

Jas 4:16 - But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Jas 4:17 - Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

The actions of the rich often condemn them:

Jas 5:1 - Come now, *you* rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon *you!*

Jas 5:2 - Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten.

Jas 5:3 - Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.

Jas 5:4 - Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

Jas 5:5 - You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter.

Jas 5:6 - You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

Yet there were many rich believers in the Old Testament:

Job

Job 1:1 - There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name *was* Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.

Job 1:2 - And seven sons and three daughters were born to him.

Job 1:3 - Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.

Abraham

Gen 13:2 - Abram *was* very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

Also Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, David, Solomon, etc.

And in the New Testament:

Joseph of Arimathea

Mat 27:57 - Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.

Zacchaeus

Luk 19:2 - Now behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.

Luk 19:3 - And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature.

Luk 19:4 - So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that *way*.

Luk 19:5 - And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

Luk 19:6 - So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.

Luk 19:7 - But when they saw *it*, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

Luk 19:8 - Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."

Luk 19:9 - And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;

Luk 19:10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Also, the speaks very positively about becoming rich:

Pro 10:22 - The blessing of the LORD makes *one* rich,
And He adds no sorrow with it.

Pro 11:25 - The generous soul will be made rich,
And he who waters will also be watered himself.

Pro 13:4 - The soul of a lazy *man* desires, and *has* nothing;
But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

So, what is the real issue? Greed!

Pro 23:4 - Do not overwork to be rich;
Because of your own understanding, cease!

Pro 28:20 - A faithful man will abound with blessings,
But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

Luk 12:29 - "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind.

Luk 12:30 - For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things.

Luk 12:31 - But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

Luk 12:32 - "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Luk 12:33 - Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys.

Luk 12:34 - For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

1Ti 6:6 - Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

1Ti 6:7 - For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

1Ti 6:8 - And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

1Ti 6:9 - But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

1Ti 6:10 - For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1Ti 6:17 - Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

1Ti 6:18 - Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,

1Ti 6:19 - storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

So, what is the bible telling us?

- Wealth in itself is not evil
- But the love of money can easily lead you astray, making it very difficult for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God
- Now, in these last days, many are lovers of money and are falling into the trap of the devil
- Don't let it happen to you, but be rich in good works, and store up for yourself treasure in heaven!