

The Sin of Loving Money

- *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**. 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**.*
- There is no question that loving money is a grave danger, a grievous sin, and the source of many lusts.
- It is exceedingly dangerous.

Loving Money is an Abomination!

- *“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” 14 **Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him.** 15 And He said to them, “You are those **who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.** Lk 16:13-15*
- Who are we more closely aligned with?
- As we watch a movie where evil is done as a result of loving money, do we see it as an disgusting and sickening abomination?

Are We "On Guard" / "Taking Heed"

- *Then He said to them, “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not {even} when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.” (NAS) Luke 12:15*
- *And he said unto them, Take heed, and keep yourselves from all covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in abundance of the things which he possesseth. Luke 12:15*
- Our attitudes toward money are very dangerous. If we don't **sigh and cry** and **feel vexed**, there is a serious problem.

The Company it Keeps

- *For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor **covetous** man, who is an **idolater**, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for **because of these things the wrath of God comes** upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore **do not be partakers with them.** Eph 5:5-7*
- Are we missing something? Do these words resonate or confuse?
- Where is this elusive line between the classic American lifestyle and greed/covetousness?

Covetousness

- *You shall not covet your neighbor's house, you shall not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's. Ex 20:17*
- *chamad 1) to desire, to covet, to take pleasure in, to delight in a thing*
- *It's NT counterpart is defined:*
- *pleonektes,... one eager to have more, esp. what belongs to others... greedy of gain, covetous: I Cor 5:10-11; 6:10; Eph 5:5"*
- *pleonexia,... greedy desire to have more, covetousness, avarice ..."*
- *Are we even close? Doe these things concern us?*

Riches are Deceitful & Choking

- *And he that was sown among the thorns, this is he that heareth the word; and the care of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. Matt 13:22*
- *And that which fell among the thorns, these are they that have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of (this) life, and bring no fruit to perfection. Luke 8:14*
- Are we certain that our quests and goals are taking us further into the Word, or choking the word?

A Clear Antidote

- *Charge them that are rich in this present world, that they be not high minded, nor have their hope set on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; 18 that they do good, that they be rich in good works, that they be ready to distribute, willing to communicate; 19 laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on the life which is (life) indeed. 1 Tim 6:17-19*
- Since we are all rich, we need a means to assess:
- High minded? Hope Set? Doing Good?
- Rich in good works? Ready to distribute?
- Willing to share? Laying a good foundation?

Prosperity & Ease – Sin of Sodom

- *Behold, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: pride, fulness of bread, and prosperous ease was in her and in her daughters; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. 50 And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw (good). Ezek 16:49-50*
- Are these the sins of America?
- Are they our sins?

The Keys to Understanding

- *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

- Jesus offered the perfect balance upon which to weigh our motives, desires, and priorities. With these Scriptures, we are prepared to assess our hearts and character and make some important decisions about the way we view and spend our money.

Our Attitude (Lamp) How we View

- *"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"*
- *An absolute truth that can't be broken.*
- *24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Mt 6:19-24"*

Some Bad Examples to Consider

- Balaam
- Judas
- Ananias & Saphira
- Simon the Sorcerer
- Any More?

Some Final Considerations

- How we Give
- How we allocate our time(Work or Family/God)
- How we see our money
- What we purchase
- How we see Gambling:
 - – A Sinful Scourge
 - – An enjoyable recreational activity
- Used to be vice (1950's – Vice Squad)
- Do we still see it as vice and an abomination?