

” Those Who Love God Cannot Love Money.”**Hebrews 13: 5-6****Facilitator: Min. Joseph Williams****a) Hebrews 13: 5-6.**

“Keep your lives free from the “love of money” and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

b) Matt.: 6:24.

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

c) 1Timothy 6:6-10.

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

I. Historical Background:**Ecclesiastes 5:10a.**

“Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.”

II. Lesson: “Those Who Love God Cannot Love Money”

1. **v. 5.** *“Keep your lives free from the “love of money” and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”*

Apostle Paul is warning the saints to beware of “covetousness”, with special emphasis on money. He knows that nothing can destroy a man or woman, or a church, quite like money. Money has the propensity to take our thoughts away from the creator and towards the created thing. This does not happen all at once but subtly our focus can move away from God. Paul lets us know that we should not be concerned whether we are rich or not, but we should beware of a desire to crave after money (1 Timothy 6:10) and the deceitfulness of riches (Mark 4:13-20) v. 19). He knows that such cravings will surely overtake them and before they know it, the money and the riches will become idols to them. Why? Because they will never have enough of it to give satisfaction.

Instead, they should be content with what they have (Philippians 4:11) because godliness with content is great gain (1 Timothy 6:6), and they can be assured that the Lord will never leave them or forsake them in whatever needs they might have (Matt. 6:8; 6:19-34). With God as our banker, we will never be totally without all that we truly need,
HALLELUJAH!

Apostle Paul’s thoughts are perfectly aligned to the teachings of Christ who emphasized “you cannot serve God and Money (wealth)” (Matt. 6:24), and whichever you choose will always take precedence over the other. Either our love for God will result in money becoming unimportant except as a means for doing good and showing love to our brothers and sisters, or the love of money will become idolatry and take away our thoughts from Christ and His ways and will destroy genuine Christian love of both God and humanity.

Money in and of itself is not bad or evil, but the unbridled desire to possess it is. It is this type of desire that causes societal decay, both morally and spiritually.

Morality can be defined in its simplest form as “what we do” and Ethics as “what we should do”. Covetousness alienates our hearts from

God and towards that which is created. The same causes alienation from our brothers and sisters.

God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

First things first, God said this and He said it that settles it. In this statement we are reminded not only of God's promise to His children but of His continued faithfulness. We are reminded here that God will never lose His grip on us (John 10:29). The word forsake means to abandon or desert. We who are Christ's can be sure that we will never find ourselves abandoned and/or deserted. This says to us for God to leave us or forsake us is absolutely impossible. ***HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH!!***

2. v. 6. So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"

Because of the surety that we have that the Lord will never lose His grip on us, that He will never abandon or desert us because He is faithful to His word, we can be bold and unafraid. Because the One Who is sovereign over all and everything is our provider and our sustenance. He is here to help us in every situation we face. How can we be afraid of anything with this certainty from our sovereign Lord. We can proclaim as it is stated in Psalm 118:6-7, ***"The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? The Lord is with me; He is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies."***

I believe we may remind ourselves here of Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit as our Helper, Encourager and Comforter and of His words to His disciples at the end, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled, believe in God, believe also in Me (John 14:1).

(Psalm 118:6-7) ***"The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? The Lord is with me; He is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies."***