

Money!

KJV 1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Before I talk about God's plan for money I want to address some myths and bad understanding about money!

People have incorrectly quoted this scripture for many, many years!

Most people quoted it like this: "Money is the root of all evil"

That understanding can mean the difference between being wealthy and being poor!

The Bible says it is the "love" of money which is the word "avarice" and means **the excessive, insatiable desire to acquire and gain wealth!**

It's getting money at all costs, the willingness to do anything for money!

This is the root of all the evils in the world!

This is what Paul meant when he wrote this to his son in the ministry!

Not many years ago people could live comfortably without much money; they could hunt, fish, grow their own food, milk their own cows and use what was left to barter for the things they needed.

Today money is a major part of society and without it people are greatly disadvantaged! Especially God's people!

Nobody in their right mind wants to be poor!

One of the worse feelings a person can have is the feeling of hopelessness! Feeling that they have no control over their lives!

KJV Proverbs 22:7 The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

One of the ways (systems) Satan uses to control the lives of people is the economic system!

- ❖ **We see this playing out in greater measure today as here in America the top 1% control 38% of the wealth while the bottom 90% hold 73% of all debt.**

This is nothing less than modern day slavery!

**The top 400 people own more wealth than the bottom 150 million!
That's half of the country—so how can we have a democracy work?**

Just 400 people control **almost** half the wealth of this country!

The poor are taken advantage of by the wicked who ignore God!

***Psalm 35:10** "Who is like you, O LORD? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor and needy from those who rob them."*

There is no advantage in being poor—in fact the poor need protection from the wicked and the wealthy!

So it stands to reason having God and money is protection from the wicked and the wealthy!

In the OT Solomon says... *For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence!* **Ecclesiastes 7:12**

Wisdom is **skill** prudence, knowledge with foresight and intelligence—which is the ability to distinguish the good from the bad.

Defense is shade or protection! Being under the shadow of one's roof is being under the protection of the head of the house.

Money enables people to pay for wisdom they don't possess themselves.
Money enables people to protect themselves!

***KJV Proverbs 4:23** Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

Without money you can't guard your children's minds!

They have to listen to whatever the world says in the streets, you can't pay for their education to a university that teaches them a skill.

Without **money** you can't protect yourself from unhealthy foods, drugs and alcohol.

Without **money** it's hard to protect yourself when you live in a rundown neighborhood.

Poverty ruins the heart and minds of people!

Poor people have no defense against those who would oppress them!

***NIV Deuteronomy 15:4** However, there should be no poor among you, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you,*

5 if only you fully obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today.

When Israel was slaves they owned no property but were the property of their masters.

After God delivered them He gave them their own land and blessed them to prosper and control their own destiny!

God instituted laws that ensured nobody remained poor even when circumstances or bad decisions caused it.

During Jubilee years land returned to its rightful owners and slaves were set free—the reason was to eliminate generational poverty!

Ahab and Jezebel stole what God had sown for His people!

KJV 1 Kings 21:1 And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth (fruits) the Jezreelite (sown by God) had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel (where God sows), hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. 2 And after this Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money." 3 But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers."

It was against The Law of God for him to give his land to another; and if he had the year of Jubilee required that Ahab give it back to Naboth.

In the Hebrew language which the Bible was written in the root word of both the words *rich* and *ten(th)* are the same.

So wealth and tenth are linked together!

Tithing is a principle that works for the unjust and the unjust!

Tithing is pre-Law! Abram tithes to Melchizedek (Gen 14:20)

KJV Matthew 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

A seed planted in the ground will grow after the rain falls on the ground, if a believer never puts seed in the ground when it rains (and it will rain) you won't receive a harvest.

KJV Psalm 50:5 Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

2 Peter 1:2 May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

KJV Deuteronomy 8:18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

It is God who gives the **power** (capacity to build, create and obtain) **wealth** (might, strength, power, riches, substance and resources).

God gives His people everything we need for life on earth in order to function at a high level of excellence and not mediocrity!

And godliness the ability to please God spiritually and naturally!

God has called us to **glory and excellence!**

Glory is defined as weightiness that comes from wealthy, dignity and honor!

Excellence is the ability to excel or go beyond the normal standards!

To be **called** is to be both summoned to a place and separated from a people!

ESV Proverbs 13:22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.

ESV Proverbs 10:6 Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

NIV Job 20:1 Then Zophar the Naamathite replied:

4 "Surely you know how it has been from of old, ever since man was placed on the earth,

5 that the mirth of the wicked is brief, the joy of the godless lasts but a moment.

6 Though his pride reaches to the heavens and his head touches the clouds,

7 he will perish forever, like his own dung; those who have seen him will say, 'Where is he?'

8 Like a dream he flies away, no more to be found, banished like a vision of the night.

10 His children must make amends to the poor; his own hands must give back his wealth.

15 He will spit out the riches he swallowed; God will make his stomach vomit them up.

18 What he toiled for he must give back uneaten; he will not enjoy the profit from his trading.

19 For he has oppressed the poor and left them destitute; he has seized houses he did not build.

21 Nothing is left for him to devour; his prosperity will not endure.

22 In the midst of his plenty, distress will overtake him; the full force of misery will come upon him.

23 When he has filled his belly, God will vent his burning anger against him and rain down his blows upon him.

^{NAS} Proverbs 10:15 The rich man's wealth is his fortress, The ruin of the poor is their poverty.

^{NIV} Ecclesiastes 10:19 A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes life merry, but money is the answer for everything.