

1 Timothy 6:3-19

Love of Money part 2: A Cause of Wandering

Wandering from the faith (v10)

- “through this craving” – the desire to be rich (v9), the love of money (v10)
- Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”
- The “greatest commandment” (Matthew 22:37-40) – we are to love God and people, and use money
- A test: unbelief and anger with God

Pursuing eternal life (vv11-12)

- Matthew 13:7, 22 “...the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.”
- Luke 18:18-30 “one thing you lack... sell all that you have... follow me”
- Matthew 4:8-10 – Jesus, tempted with prosperity, answers “For it is written, ‘you shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve’.”
- “wandering” (v10) vs “pursuing” (v11) - the gospel is about Jesus, who pursues wanderers

questions for reflection

1. How can you tell if “the love of money” is present in your life? How would choices be made differently (big decisions and small ones) if you do not let the craving to be rich control you?
2. The rich man in Luke 18 went away sad because Jesus said he should sell all he has if he wants eternal life (he did not want to part with his money). What in your life would be impossible to give up if Jesus were to ask you to give it up?
3. Is God irrelevant to you because you think money (or something else) can get you what you really want in life? Have you been angry with God because God doesn’t bring you the things you want in life?
4. In what ways do you use people? How are your interactions with others shaped by what you can get from them rather than how you can serve them?
5. What changes do you need to make (in the way you think, in the choices you make, etc.) to allow the love of God and love for people to drive you, rather than being driven by the love of money and the desire to be rich?
6. Jesus came as a shepherd comes after wandering sheep, and calls us to follow closely after him. Reflect on the fact that Jesus comes in love for us and consider the fact that we are prone to love what cannot love us in return (things like money). Who or what should we trust most in life?