

## The Love of Money part 4: A hindrance to generosity

July 31, 2011

The love of money (vv9-10) will hinder our generosity – the more we have, the more important it is to take note of 3 things:

### 1. Hope in God, Not In Riches (v17)

- riches are uncertain
- pride is a temptation for the rich
- the way to avoid these pitfalls is to set your hope on God

### 2. Enjoy and Share (vv17-18)

- recognize God “provides us with everything to enjoy”
- a greater purpose is that we would be generous with what we have
- Ephesians 4:28 “Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.”
- 2 Corinthians 9:7 “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
- Is your life characterized by trying to fill emptiness, or giving away what is above your own needs?

### 3. Plan for the Future (v19)

- v17 “as for the rich in this present age”
- Isaiah 55 “why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?” (v2)
- The love of money reveals short sightedness – you must believe this life is all there is to be convinced that acquiring money is our highest goal
- “charge them... so they may take hold of that which is truly life.”
- Prayerful reflection, with counsel, should lead us to recognize what is “enough” so that we may share out of whatever abundance God may grant to us

### Questions for reflection:

1. What do you “hope in”? Reflect on the things you want most in life, and how you have been assuming you might get them. Is God in the picture at all?
2. Are you able to enjoy the things God gives you? Do you have the freedom to receive all good things with thanks, or do you feel guilty or undeserving, or are you dissatisfied because you are preoccupied with getting more?

3. Ephesians 4:28 says we should work so that we will have something to share with people in need. Do you do that? Are you working, not only for your own gain and benefit, but so that any success will also benefit others? Who would those others be? How broad should your intentions to share be?
4. What is your assumption about what will happen to you after you die? What in this life will make a difference beyond this life?
5. Jesus came to lay down his life for us, and to bring us an inheritance that we can't earn or buy – what does it look like in daily life to set your hope on him?