

# **BIBLICAL ECONOMICS INTRODUCTION**

## **THE MINISTRY AND ITS FINANCIAL INTEGRITY, [2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15](#)**

### **The Biblical View of Money**

Let's pick it up from there. **Third** thing I might say about the love of money is that when you love money you begin to trust in it. And that's kind of what we were just saying. You not only forget God but you turn affection toward your money. We say, "Hey, I don't have anything to worry about, I'm set. Everything is great in my life. I've got my bank account built up. I've hedged against every conceivable dilemma that could come along in the future. I've provided for everything as well as I can provide and maybe a little left over. I can take care of myself. I've got all the money I need for the rainy day. I'm covered on every front."

And then you have to ask the question, am I trusting in God or am I trusting in my gold. Now, I'm not saying it's wrong to have some savings. We'll get into that next week. I'm not saying it's wrong to have an insurance policy. But what I am saying is that when you love money you will begin to trust money and not God. In [Job 31](#), Job...and he knew what it was to have it and what it was to lose it...[Job 31:24](#) and following,

#### **Job 31:24-28 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup> "If I have put my confidence *in* gold, And called fine gold my trust,  
<sup>25</sup> If I have gloated because my wealth was great, And because my hand had secured *so* much;  
<sup>26</sup> If I have looked at the sun when it shone Or the moon going in splendor,  
<sup>27</sup> And my heart became secretly enticed, And my hand threw a kiss from my mouth,  
<sup>28</sup> That too would have been an iniquity *calling for judgment*, For I would have denied God above."

If I trust in my riches, I don't trust in God.

And I can honestly tell you, I want to be in my life in a place where I need to trust God because I love the joy of seeing God work in that time. And the Lord does such wonderful things. [Proverbs 11:28 NASB](#) says, "**He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like the green leaf.**" The somewhat liberated Living Bible chooses to translate that this way, "Trust in your money and down you go." And the rest of the verse says, "Trust in God and flourish like a tree."

And [1 Timothy 6](#)...we were in that text a moment ago...[verse 17](#) says,

**1 Timothy 6:17 (NASB)**

**<sup>17</sup>“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.**

Trust in the living God. He later on says,

**1 Timothy 6:18 (NASB)**

**<sup>18</sup>“Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share.”**

Sadly, sometimes the more money people have, the less they're willing to part with it. Riches seem to obscure their perspective and they tend to isolate them.

Rich people tend to get more and more isolated because their world is more and more insulated and the walls around their house are wider, the fences around their yard are broader, and their isolated world is a world that doesn't touch those who struggle with the little things in life. And so they're cut off from those in need, so busy bumping elbows with those who have no need. It's easy to lose perspective. It's easy to begin to trust in your money and not trust God.

A **fourth** thought about loving money is that it's...it's easy to be deceived. Money is very deceptive. In fact, [Mark 4:19](#), and Matthew also talks about this in [Matthew 13](#).

**Mark 4:19 (NASB)**

**<sup>19</sup>“But the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”**

**Matthew 13:22 (NASB)**

**<sup>22</sup>“And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”**

It talks about the deceitfulness of riches which chokes the Word. Riches lie; they deceive. When you have money, you can easily think you have everything. It lulls you into the deception that all is well in your life. And some people might even think of these people running around preaching this prosperity gospel, that if you're rich that means that God likes you extra special and you're in abundant favor with God because you have a lot of money. So everything must be okay with you.

I mean, if you go to someone and you say, “You know, I just want you to know that I think this is a false teacher,” it's not uncommon for someone in that movement, a movement of the prosperity gospel, to say, “Well how can you say he's a false teacher when God has made him so rich? God must be pleased.” Riches can deceive you about spiritual reality. They can deceive you about whether or not you are being blessed. Riches can steal your heart. They can deceive you about what's important in life.

And then another point, a love of money can lead a person to the place where they **compromise** convictions, **compromise** the Bible, **compromise** the Word. It's been said that every man has his price, and I suppose we've all been asked the question, "What's your price?" That's the price at which you compromise your convictions. And it's like that story of the author who was at the New York dinner party in a high-class New York hotel. And he was sitting next to a beautiful woman. He was stunned by her beauty and he couldn't take his eyes off her.

And eventually he leaned over to her during the meal and asked if she would spend the night with him for a \$100,000.00. And rather demurely, you know, she dropped her face and then...and looked up at him and said, "Well," blushing, "yes." To which he replied, "Well, would you spend the night with me for ten dollars?" And she said, "Well, what do you think I am?" He said, "We've already established that. We're only bargaining for the price."

I suppose that everybody in the world has their price. Christians shouldn't have a price. You know, some people would lie to get a job promotion, some people would falsify some documentation or an application. Some would mute the testimony of Jesus in order to be popular. That's selling out. Some people will sell out just to be thought of as intellectual. Some people will sell out to gain some possession, or to be accepted by some well-known or prominent person, or whatever.

It's amazing through the years...I've had the responsibility through the years to raise a lot of money. I never thought when I was called to the ministry, in the seminary, that I would ever have to be responsible to raise money. Nobody ever told me that. But that happens, folks, all the time in my life. When you have a church and you start out with one little building over here.

We've had to raise a tremendous amount of money to build this ministry. We've had to do that in terms of the development of our world missions program. And especially with all of the work that our church does through Covington Theological Seminary in training pastors around the world.

And there's always that money to be raised...and it's always crucial and it's always a crisis. And there's never extra. And you're always just on your knees and praying and, occasionally, someone will come along with a promise that they'll make the money available *if, if*. You'd be surprised how many people have asked me if I would be willing to tone down my convictions or even to take a different theological viewpoint.

It happens. It's amazing. If I would be willing to sign on, change my views about what I believe the Bible teaches, people would be glad to give money. Well, that's a temptation, isn't it? That's a test to see what your price is. You shouldn't have one. There isn't a point in your life when you're willing to compromise convictions, compromise what you know the Bible teaches, what you know God wants, what you know is true for anything monetary or earthly.

And that's where you've got to go back to [Matthew 6](#) and seek first the kingdom, right?

**Matthew 6:33-34 (NASB)**

<sup>33</sup> **“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**

<sup>34</sup> **So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”**

Nothing competes with that. But when people love money, they sell out for money. They compromise their convictions. It happens all the time.

I watch ministries do that. I watch well-known large ministries have huge donors who come in and force them to change their convictions to get the money. It's very common.