

GROWTHguide

"The Root of all Evil"

July 23, 2017



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

1 Timothy 6:10, Ecclesiastes 5:10

1 Timothy 6:6-7 & 6:9-10, 1 Timothy 6:17-19

DAY 1

Read [1 Timothy 6:10](#)

What we think Scripture says may not be what, in fact, was said. Throughout the years it has been taught that "money is the root of all evil" and through that teaching, it follows that if you had money then you were an evil person. Today read the verse from first Timothy carefully.

- **How does it change your understanding when you read the Scripture and see that it says, "The love of money is the root of all evil" versus what we often quote, "Money is the root of all evil?"**
- **When you contemplate this verse, how do you see yourself in it versus only seeing others who might have more financial resources than you?**
- **How is your understanding of money different now that you have read specifically what the Scripture says?**

DAY 2

Read [Ecclesiastes 5:10](#), [1 Timothy 6:6-7](#)

Howard Hughes was one of the richest men in America. He once was asked, "How much money does it take to make a

man happy?" to which his reply was, "Just a little bit more."

- **How would you respond to that question as it applies to you?**
- **Why did you respond the way you did?**
- **What do you think is behind the premise that most people believe if they had a little more money all of their problems would go away?**

The truth of the matter is, the more money you make, the more you spend.

- **Have you noticed this pattern in your own life?**

Paul writes that we come into the world naked (with nothing) and we leave the world with nothing and yet so many of us want to hold onto everything we own as if it will really matter.

- **What do you think Paul would say about that? Why?**

DAY 3

Read [1 Timothy 6:9-10](#)

These pieces of Scripture often trip us up. We read into it that Paul is speaking only to "wealthy" people like Oprah, Bill Gates, or Warren Buffet and most of us would not classify ourselves that way.

- **Who do you think Paul is speaking about?**
- **Would it surprise you to know it is ordinary people like you? Why/Why not?**

Pastor Bob shared some interesting statistics Sunday. He said if you have a car you are amongst the top 9% wealthy in the world. He mentioned if you have a cell phone, that you are carrying around something with the value totaling

the annual wages of many people around the world. So, from a worldly standpoint, if you have a car or own a cell phone, you are considered rich. Go back and re-read these texts with this understanding

- **How does this affect you? Why?**

DAY 4

Read [1 Timothy 6:17](#)

Truth be known, money promises all the things that can only come from God. Paul says we need to "hope in God, who richly provides everything for our enjoyment."

- **If this is something you have been struggling with, how can you redirect and place your hope in God?**

Money promises us security, happiness, and status. What we discover is, money can't deliver on what it promises. Having more money will not make your spouse love you more and will not bring you greater happiness.

- **Jesus said, "You cannot love both God and money." What do you think he means by that?**
- **Think of time when you found yourself serving money. What was going on in your life? How did you correct your life trajectory?**

DAY 5

Read [1 Timothy 6:18-19](#)

If you don't have a lot of Jesus, money looks really good and you need more and more and more. But when you have a lot of Jesus, then you can be content with what you have. The time will come when you realize the abundance you have comes directly from God, and when Jesus is your focus you realize all that you have isn't solely for your own

pleasure or enjoyment. God loves it when we honor him with tithes and gifts that enrich the ministry and kingdom plan of the church. God created the church to be a vessel to bring hope, peace, forgiveness and restoration so when we give to God's work through the church, his mission goes forward.

- **Paul says the antidote to greed is giving or generosity. That's why he warns Timothy, "the love of money is the root of all evil. It is the source of greed." Giving back to God breaks the cycle of greed and shows that generosity is the cure. Think about these words and ask God to lead your heart in a greater understanding of what giving really means.**
- **What would the outreach of St. Paul UMC look like if everyone was generous? What steps are you willing to take to live into Paul's words?**

Having trouble reading this e-mail? You can open a PDF of the Growth Guide by [clicking here](#).



St. Paul United Methodist Church
1199 Highland Ave. | Largo, FL 33770
727-584-8165 | church@stpaulumc.org

www.stpaulumc.org



St. Paul United Methodist Church, 1199 Highland Avenue, Largo, FL 33770

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by church@stpaulumc.org in collaboration with



Try it free today