



# First Timothy

## Evil's Root

**Love of Money**

**I Timothy 6:9, 10**

**Lesson Thirty**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*



# First Timothy

A Study of the First Letter of the Apostle Paul to His Son in the Faith

## Evil's Root—I Timothy 6:9, 10

Paul continues his discussion about getting stuff. He narrows his focus down to money. He speaks about those whose eye is on getting rich. Read I Timothy 6:9, 10.

Think about it. He is not talking about those who are rich, or those who are getting paid for good work and become rich.\* He spoke about those who make getting rich the major goal of their lives. When we think about this teaching, we remember that Paul is not coming down on those who have money, or even those who have become rich by working hard to earn it.

The people spoken to in these two verses are those who are willing to do whatever it takes to get rich. They are willing to take shortcuts, get their riches from those who can't afford it or use schemes and trickery to get money. If you have kept up with the news in the last few years, you might be thinking now of Bernard Madoff or Alan Stanford who designed Ponzi schemes to get rich. By the way, did you know that such schemes are named after a man, Charles Ponzi, who took money from thousands of people, almost a hundred years ago, by getting them to invest in postage stamps.

Those are the kind of people Paul is talking about here. He said that they fall into a snare...a trap. It is true that money brings power, but that power only lasts as long as the money lasts. Money brings popularity, but those who want to be your friends are around only as long as there is money to get them things. Money brings things, but things don't really give you happiness, they only deliver entertainment for a while. Money brings, according to Paul, foolish and harmful desires. When a person gives in to foolish desires, they bring harm.

The harm is described as "ruin and destruction." Paul didn't spell out what ruin and destruction are, but he did say that this kind of person is plunged into them. The word "plunge" here is the same one used to describe a sinking boat. If you have ever seen a picture or a movie about a sinking boat (the Titanic), you will know what a helpless feeling that must be. No one can do anything. When the boat tips up and begins to slide into the water, it is hopeless. Well, when a person is lost in their desire to get rich, they are like a sinking boat. They are going down, without any help, into ruin and destruction. Elsewhere (See I Corinthians 5:5 and II Thessalonians 1:9) Paul makes ruin and destruction sound very bad.

It is also true that this desire for riches can hurt others...even your family. Of course, if you do what Charles Ponzi, Bernard Madoff and Alan Stanford did, others will be hurt. But what about those people who take two or three jobs to make more money, not to provide necessities for their families, but to get things that really aren't necessary? Those people hurt their families by not being available to them when they are needed, and also by giving them more stuff than they really need.

Which brings us to the second verse in our Scripture for today. This may be the most misquoted verse in the New Testament. It says, "For the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil." It is often quoted as, "Money is the root of all evil." That is just not right. Money is not good or bad. It is how people feel about it and how they use it that brings about good and bad.

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Paul may be quoting an “old saying” here. Several Greek philosophers who lived hundreds of years before Paul made that kind of statement. Among them were Democritus (Dim-oc’-ri-tus) and Phocylides (Fo-kil-i’-dees). Phocylides said, “The love of all money is the mother of all evils.”

As we have said, having money isn’t sinful. Abraham was a wealthy man. David, “the man after God’s own heart,” became a wealthy king. But, when we think about some others, we see a different side of wealth. The rich young official (though he was a good man) turned down Jesus’ offer of salvation because he loved money. (Matthew 18:18-27) So, it is the *love* of money that’s the problem.

To love something or someone means that you are committed. You want a relationship with that thing or person. If you love money, you want that more than you want anything else. That means that you have no room in your heart for spiritual things. It means that any thing you do for God is designed to make money. It means that you don’t have to do a good job of what you call ministry, just good enough to get paid. If you are a good actor, you don’t even need God’s Spirit to be present.

The people in the church at Ephesus who were teaching false doctrine were doing a good job of convincing people that they were from God and telling God’s truth. And, Paul tells us here that they were in it for the money.

So, what are the outcomes. Well, we’ve already mentioned that people get hurt by Ponzi schemes and work schedules that guarantee more than what is needed financially. But, that is not the worst.

When we do things under false pretenses, when we put on an act, when we are focused on getting rich, we hurt ourselves. Paul called it ruin and destruction. But we also hurt those who are closest to us, our family. And, even worse than that, we hurt the Kingdom of God. When Christians do the wrong things, people see them and loose respect for God and His work.

If a person makes money the driving force of their life, they are committing a great sin.

\*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Lesson Goal: To encourage students to be wise in relationship to riches.

**Scripture Memory:** “**For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.**” I Timothy 6:10

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## Student Worksheet—Following Through

### Evil's Root—I Timothy 6:9, 10

- >Who is Paul not talking about in these verses?
  
- >The people spoken to in these two verses are those who are \_\_\_\_\_ to do whatever it takes to get \_\_\_\_\_.
- >What does money bring, according to Paul?
  
- >To what kind of boat does Paul compare a person is lost in their desire to get rich?
  
- >How do some people misquote, “For the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil.”
  
- >Money is not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. It is how people feel about it and how they \_\_\_\_\_ it that brings about good and bad.
- >Who were two wealthy men in the Old Testament?
  
- >We hurt the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. When Christians do the \_\_\_\_\_ things, people see them and loose \_\_\_\_\_ for God and His \_\_\_\_\_.

**For Memory: “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”** I Timothy 6:10

#### How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.