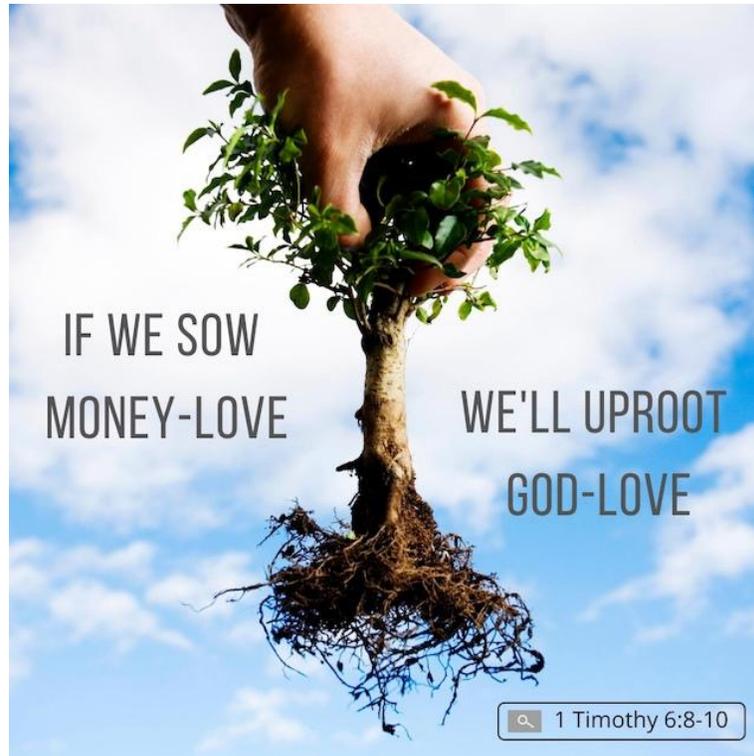

A GOOD FRIEND BECOMES OUR WORST ENEMY

1 TIMOTHY 6:8-10



Money can be a good friend. It gives comforts and opportunities to us and our families. It supports churches and charities as they minister to the spiritually and financially poor. Money can be a good friend and therefore we desire its company in life.

But the **love** of money is our worst enemy. As Paul says in 1 Timothy 6:8-10, **the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil**. How do we avoid the **love** of money taking root in our lives? How do we desire money without being destroyed by it? That's the question Paul tackles in this passage.

- **THE LOVE OF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL KINDS OF MORAL EVIL**
- **THE LOVE OF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL KINDS OF SPIRITUAL EVIL.**

LEARNING

THE LOVE OF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL KINDS OF MORAL EVIL

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation (9). The love of money makes us do wrong things in order to get more money. And once we've fallen into temptation like that, it's not so easy to get up again because we've not just fallen on the ground, we've **fallen into a snare (9)**. The love of money traps us. It gets a grip and won't let go.

The love of money doesn't come alone. It brings lots of friends along with it. Their names are **many senseless and harmful desires (9)**. The love of money stimulates multiple other irrational and damaging desires **that plunge people into ruin and destruction (9)**.

IF WE SOW MONEY-LOVE,
WE'LL UPROOT GOD-LOVE.

If the harvest of moral evil is not enough to deter us from the love of money, Paul adds one more evil.

THE LOVE OF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL KINDS OF SPIRITUAL EVIL

The yearning for more money is at the root of giving up the faith. **It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith (10).**

Paul uses an interesting word here—wandered. He doesn't say, "They decided to leave the faith" or "They decided to turn from the faith." No, they simply **wandered** from it. They began slowly moving away from the faith. It wasn't anything dramatic or obvious. It was slow, almost casual, but inch by inch, turn by turn they left the faith. When the love of money takes over, it takes our faith away.

Some wanderings are not too dangerous, but this one is fatal. **They pierced themselves with many pangs (10).** The love of money results in self-harm. It's like cutting our souls. If you doubt that check out the "Where are they now?" pictures of those who were rich and famous 10 or 20 years ago.

THE LOVE OF MONEY GIVES US SOME THINGS,
BUT TAKES AWAY EVERYTHING WORTH HAVING.

LOVING

What a difference loving God makes to our lives. Love for God is the root of all moral, spiritual, and eternal good. If we sow love for God, it will produce an abundant, beautiful, healthy harvest in our lives. That's why Jude tells believers living in the midst of apostasy, **Keep yourselves in the love of God (Jude 21).**

LIVING

Sow love for God to uproot temptation, traps, turning from the faith, and total destruction. Sow love for God to produce a harvest of holiness, safety, faithfulness, and eternal life.
