

Effective Stewardship Program  
Bible Study  
August 26, 2012

This month, we are seeking to emphasize a right understanding of money. Often you will find people who are confused and do not understand the Bible's outlook on money. You may even have heard 1 Timothy 6:10 misquoted as, "Money is the root of all evil." Correctly stated, it says, ". . . the *love* of money is a root of all kinds of evil."

Last month's study showed us that we are to glorify God in everything we do. This includes how we are to use money. To use it properly, we must have the right view of money. Money is a neutral commodity, a means of exchange. It is neither inherently good nor evil. It is the love of money, though, that causes plenty of evil.

Jesus tells us to ". . . seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matt. 6:33). Satan, on the other hand, would have us seek the things of this world first. He tempts us with our wants and our fear of need. He would have us view money as that which takes care of our needs and/or which gives us the things we want.

Read these verses to your students or have them look up these verses in their Bibles. Discuss with them the questions that follow, especially considering these Scripture verses.

Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them? (Eccl. 5:10-11).

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil (Prov. 4:23, 27).

So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matt. 6:31-33).

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:1-3).

Ask your students the following questions:

Lower Grades and Youth:

1. How should you view the money you receive as an allowance? How should you view the money you receive from a summer job? How should you view money you receive from odd jobs such as baby sitting and cutting lawns?

Upper Grades and Bible Classes:

2. What things can money not give you?