

1 **Ten biblical principles about money and wealth**

2 **2. Worship and trust God rather than money**

3 **The Bible teaches us to worship and trust God rather than money**

4 **The underlying theme of this seminar**

The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith. ^{1 Timothy 1:5 (NLT)}

5 **Principle #2: Worship and trust God rather than money**

- Part I: Worship God
 - ◆Key Bible passages
 - ◆6 principles concerning money and worship
 - ◆3 consequences of pursuing God rather than wealth
 - ◆
- Part II: Trust God
 - ◆An unreliable source of security
 - ◆Can our wealth extend our lives?
 - ◆Whom should we trust?

6 **Key Bible passages**

7 **God's attributes inform our financial world view**

2. We worship God because he is El Elyon, the Most High God. We trust him because he is Jehovah Jirah—our God who Provides and he is Yahweh-Raah, The Lord my shepherd

■

8 **Part I: Worship God, not money**

9 **1. We must choose whom we will love and serve**

- “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” ^{Matthew 6:24 (NLT)}

10 **2. God wants us to have a rich relationship with himself rather than the world**

11 **3. God is the One who gives our lives value, not our possessions**

12 **4. Base our joy on knowing and serving God rather than pursuing riches and pleasure**

- I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness ^{Isaiah 61:10a}
- Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. ^{Psalms 128:1 (ESV)}

13 **5. If we depend upon our money and possessions for our happiness, we may be disappointed**

- I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the SUN. ^{Ecclesiastes 2:10-11}

14 **6. Living for pleasure can be described as living death**

- But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives ^{1 Timothy 5:6}

15 **Three adverse consequences Christians may experience for pursuing God rather**

than riches

- 16 **1. Hatred and disrespect from the world rather than praise**
- 17 **2. Oppression and discrimination**
- 18 **3. Suffering and persecution**
- 19 **Class discussion**
 ■ Why do we experience hatred, mistreatment and even suffering when we pursue the things of Heaven rather than Earth?
- 20 **Part II: Trust in God rather than money**
- 21 **Three dangers of trusting money for our security**
- 22 **1. Riches are an unreliable source of security**
 ■ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, ^{1 Timothy 6:17a}
- 23 **How riches disappear**
 ■ Stolen
 ■ Lost
 ■ Hiding places forgotten
 ■ Spent
 ■ Investments that turn sour
 ■ Deterioration (moths, bacteria, rust)
 ■ Destroyed (fire, flood, wind, earthquake, explosion, etc)
 ■ Inflation
 ■ Depreciation
 ■ Taxes on wealth
 ■ Government seizure
 ■
- 24 **2. Our wealth won't purchase one minute of life beyond that ordained by God**
 ■ Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death ^{Proverbs 11:4}
 ■ Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"' "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?' ^{Luke 12:18-20 (NLT2) >}
- 25 **3. Feeling of self-sufficiency (pride)**
 ■ "Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.' "But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day. "It shall come about if you ever forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish. ^{Deuteronomy 8:17-19 (NASB)}
- 26 **If trusting in money is unreliable and even dangerous**
- 27 **Trust God to care and provide for us, not our money**
 ■ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ^{1 Timothy 6:17}
 ■ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." ^{Hebrews 13:5}
 ■ Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf. ^{Proverbs 11:28}
- 28 **Essay**
 ■ What does the Bible say about trusting and worshipping money. Compare and contrast each point with popular worldly thinking.
- 29 **Class discussion**

■ Share a real-life example of someone you know who practiced either or both philosophies described in this module;

◆ Worshiped and trusted God rather than money

◆ Worshiped and trusted money rather than God

◆ Hint: power, fame, pleasure are common substitutes for money as a passionate pursuit. You may use them as your examples.

30 Summary

■ Let the pursuit of our hearts be to love, worship, and obey Christ rather than chase after money and the things it can buy.

■ God is the one who gives our lives value and meaning.

■ Though the world may ridicule, despise, or persecute us for our devotion to him rather than to materialism, we are to find our joy and pleasure by knowing and serving him.

■ Our wealth cannot give us security or peace, or purchase even one minute of life beyond that which is ordained by God.

■ God is our provider, the source of our security, and the protector of our lives.

■ We are to pursue God with a thankful, sincere, and humble heart.

31 Ten biblical principles about money and wealth