

# ***The Problem: We Can Worship Money***

## ***~ Part 2***

*(Suitable for use within a group over approximately one hour, or for an individual's personal Bible reading)*

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### ***Why is worshipping money such a problem?***

Scripture broadly points us to 3 categories of very significant problems arising from the worship of money. As you consider each of these problems and the corresponding passage(s), discuss how the following make you susceptible to succumbing to each problem category:

- a. Your circumstances as a health practitioner in training; and
  - b. The pressures that exist as a result of being a health practitioner in training.
1. We don't believe worshipping money has consequences but idolatry makes God jealous and angry.
    - **Deuteronomy 6:14-15:** 'Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous [for your devotion] God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land.'
  2. We don't believe that worshipping money can affect our long term future but trusting in money leads to unbelief in God.
    - **Deuteronomy 6:10-12:** 'When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.'
    - **Matt 13:22:** 'The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.'
    - **1 Timothy 6:9-10:** 'People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 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.'
  3. We believe that finances can bring security for the future but money (and its gain) is passing, making worship of money futile.
    - **Proverbs 11:28:** 'Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.'
    - **Luke 12:15-21:** 'Then he [Jesus] said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, "What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops." "Then he said, "This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." "But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."'
    - **Matthew 6:19-21:** "'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in

heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

*Remember then: If chasing wealth can lead to idolatry, and trusting in oneself rather than God (and His providing hand), it follows that although people with money can appear to be doing well, they can actually be worse off than the poor:*

- **Revelation 3:17:** 'You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.'
- **Luke 6:20, 24:** 'Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God ... "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.'
- **James 5:1-6:** 'Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.'

- Before concluding today, consider whether you are willing to be accountable to one another post graduation in the area of wealth in an effort to avoid these problems.

# Bible Bites

(Suitable to be completed over approximately 20-25 minutes)

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