

## Are You A Mark?

### Scripture

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all [kinds of] evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” (1Ti 6:6-12 NKJV)

### Commentary

There is a play on words in the passage above. Contentment is great gain? How can this be? Well it is godliness with contentment that is great gain.

Many seek what this world has to offer with a passion that displaces God from their lives. They are not content to live a comfortable life, but are always seeking the proverbial all-mighty buck. That term, all-mighty buck, is not used by accident. To some it has become all mighty. It is just earthly mammon, destined to burn up, but in the lives of some, money is the driving force.

Paul said those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare. The enemy of Christ uses the all-mighty buck like a con man in his sting. The lust of it drives the mark into a fool's snare. In an effort to get rich, the mark will trust the con man to come through with a big payoff only to find the con man has taken the money and run.

Satan is the best con man in the world. He even offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would fall down and worship him. He promised him a big payoff. Thankfully, Jesus was not to be fooled because He lacked what all con men need to trick their marks. He lacked sinful lust!

The passage says that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. It is not money that is the problem. Abraham was very wealthy, but also faithful. No, it is the love of money that is the problem. So be careful what you love.

How do you discern if you love money? Well what is love? Love is basically a willingness to sacrifice for others. So a love of money would be willingness to sacrifice for money. What is it that men sacrifice when they seek to be rich? They sacrifice time with God, family, church and friends. They sacrifice good morals to make a deal or two. They sacrifice their faith. As is said in the Scripture above, some have strayed from the faith.

Therefore it is a good practice to ask, am I willing to give it all away to have Christ? If God should ask you to sell all that you have and give it to the poor and follow Him, would you do it, or would you be like the rich young ruler and go away sad because you have many possessions?

### **Prayer**

Father, keep us focused on the things that lead to life and godliness. Show us when we become distracted by the things of the world that we might always honor you, amen.