

Christian Atheist: "I Believe in God but I Trust More in Money"

I Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

7/31/22

Discussion Guide

Prepare

Talk about your relationship with money. Has it changed over the years? What are some truisms about money that have shaped your life? What is a key passage of scripture that has informed you in the area of money?

Today's Text

But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For 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.

¹⁷Command 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. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. I Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

1. Pick one of the truisms about money and discuss it:
 - *It's never enough.*
 - *It's hard to tell if you are rich.*
 - *The more money you have does not make you more generous.*
 - *Most Christians experience a low level of chronic guilt regarding money, particularly, when it comes to giving.*
2. *"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil..." (vs. 10)* What kinds of evil find their root in money, either by its presence or by its absence?
3. How do you view money? Is it good, bad, or morally neutral? How do you view those with a lot of it and those who don't?
4. Our culture loves to divide people along economic lines, pitting them against each other. Has class warfare affected the Church or have we been able to rise above it and bring people of all classes to live in harmony with one another?
5. Can wealth make you arrogant?

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6. *"Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires..."* (vs. 9) Into what foolish and harmful desires can those who want to get rich fall?
7. Discuss this statement: *"Money can poison your life by its presence and by its absence."*
8. Discuss each of the three practices that can help us escape the power money can have over us: What line do you draw between what is greed and what is not?
 - Contentment
 - Grace
 - Simplicity
9. Define greed. What line have you drawn over which, if you stepped, would move you into greed.
10. Earlier I asked you to share a Scripture passage that has shaped your financial life. Now, share a passage on money that is currently shaping you. Has your struggle with money changed over time?
11. Is there anything else you would like to discuss concerning money?