

# The Most Common Idol On Earth

*Promise: clinging to gift of salvation given us in Christ is true wealth*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Amos 6:1-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; [Luke 16:19-31](#)

(16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 9/25/22)

*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. — 1Ti 6:10*

**Lead In** – Oh the lure and love of money! Our three lessons this morning all have a perspective on the dangers of wanting to be rich. That danger, in a nutshell, is that money quickly becomes our god. And like all false gods, it cannot deliver what it promises. This danger is all about the First and most important of the Ten Commandments...

## I. What Amos Teaches and Warns Us About

- This god is all about putting your 'self first...
- When we live primarily for comfort and pleasure...
- The irony of being allowed to be first...

## II. What Paul's Letter to Timothy Teaches Us

- We flee the worthless by pursuing the priceless...
- Godliness with contentment is a great gift...
- Treat money as a chain saw with a warning label...

## III. What Jesus' Parable Teaches and Promises

- A picture paints a thousand words...
- The coming age will see dramatic reversals...
- After death is too late! ...

**Parting Shot** – One way of considering what Jesus' death and resurrection accomplished for us is to hear the Apostle Paul's words 2 Corinthians 8... We ordinarily think of Jesus work on the cross as effecting the forgiveness for sins, the overcoming death, and overcoming the tyranny of the devil. But that spells true riches. For impoverished by our sins, now there is the gift of the inheritance of the Kingdom, with unimaginable joy, comfort, and pleasure! And we receive this gift from the Cross, by the Word of the Cross – the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus, the same word that starts with Moses and the prophets.

**Ex 20:3-6** "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments." (cf. Dt 5:7-10)

**Luther:** We are to fear, love, and trust God above anything else.

**Am 6:4-6** Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

**Am 6:7** Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away.

# Luke 16:19-31 ESV

*The Rich Man and Lazarus*

<sup>19</sup>There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup>And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup>The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, <sup>23</sup>and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. <sup>24</sup>And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. <sup>26</sup>And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' <sup>27</sup>And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup>But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' <sup>30</sup>And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup>He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

**1Ti 6:11-12** But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

**1Ti 6:9** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

**Lk 1:51-53** He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

**Ps 146:7-9** who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**2Co 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

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