

# False gods

“But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those 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.

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.”

1 Timothy 6:8-10 (NIV)

**H**ow sad it is to see some people who serve gods of gold. Never satisfied with what they have, they seek to have more. A bigger home, finer clothes, more expensive jewelry, sending their children to expensive schools—and on the list goes of the gods some people serve.

I recall being in the modest home of an elderly couple who had the job of entertaining me between the morning and evening Sunday services of their church—where I was preaching that day.

Their home was full of old furniture that looked like it had been bought at the Salvation Army surplus store. Their car was 15 years old and was what some of us call a “rust bucket”. Everything about them spoke of poverty.

Yet these old folk were so happy with their lot in life. The day I spent with them was their 61st wedding anniversary. I

felt sad that they did not have the means to celebrate their anniversary in some way.

When we sat at the kitchen table for our lunch I noticed over 20 posters on the kitchen wall with the face of a happy child on each one. I asked them what the photos meant. They beamed with pride and said these were their children.

They explained to me that they supported all of these children in third world countries. I calculated that they were spending over 400 dollars per month on this project. It was only later that I learned they had once been wealthy people with their own highly successful business. All through their marriage they lived frugally in order to give to missions that cared for orphans and trained them to be successful, self sufficient adults.

This couple knew that their unusual ability to generate wealth could trap them and

ruin them spiritually. In order to avoid a potential spiritual disaster they lived all those years at a poverty level and gave away millions of dollars to benefit others.

Are you tempted or trapped by the “foolish desires” money can afford? Have you been overtaken in some of the evil traps of wealth? Some professing Christians have gone away from the faith in their pursuit of money. All of us should learn to live with less in order that others can live with more. This is the way of Jesus. 2 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV)

“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 through his poverty might become rich.”

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