

THE DISEASE OF GREED

1 Timothy 6:10 ... "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."

We would be remiss if we did not address a particular problem in our local society that has arisen recently (in the past 2-3 years). If only a few people had fallen for the lies and deceptions, we might not address it. However, a great many citizens of our province have indeed become involved in pyramid and ponzi schemes that will eventually wipe them out financially. And, when people hurt financially, they often resort to even greater unlawful acts or moral failure. Some do and will, kill themselves. Furthermore, many Christians are participating. The Bible tells us we are responsible for correcting brothers and sisters in Christ if they involve themselves in unholy activities. So, if that is you, consider this a gentle warning.

The first principle we must remind believers of is the Biblical requirement for stewardship. Every resource at your disposal belongs to God and is provided to you for the purpose of supporting your family and serving Christ. When you use God's resources to gamble on personal wealth that hurts others (those who contribute after you), you are disrespecting God who provided those resources. You are robbing your family, you are robbing God and you are robbing other contributors who sign-up after you. Greed and improper stewardship of God's resources, are both sins.

Many participants in these scams have quit their jobs, others are just not showing up on time or working as they should because of their anticipation of becoming rich. This form of greed is the desire for unearned wealth; money you do not deserve, for work you do not do, at the expense of others. God provides you a good job, but instead of valuing that blessing, you gamble it away to avoid working. This combines the sin of greed with the sins of laziness and taking advantage of others.

Perhaps the greatest sin of all for participants, is their ignoring the Holy Spirit and the truths of God's Word. When you listen to the lies of promoters who have only their own wealth and gain at heart, you are listening to the lies of evil. Remember Eve in the garden and how she got into trouble?

By participating in one of these schemes, you are committing multiple sins for which you will someday pay. I have heard some observers say they pity the poor people who have become involved. However, rich or poor, the reason for anyone to participate in one of these schemes is to avoid work and trying to escape the watchful eye of God. The sin of greed is at the heart of anyone who participates and there is no pity in that, only misery.

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