

**Dear Son**  
**Part Ten – Your Work and Money**

Pastor Ted Cunningham

We take offering here at Woodland Hills in these buckets. It's where we give our tithes and offerings. We encourage you to give generously this morning. If you are new to Woodland Hills or you are just catching up from the summer, we are raising \$100,000.00 for a school rebuild in Haiti and again, thank you, Woodland Hills, for your generosity in that project and all the other ministries that we are supporting.

I just want to say thank you for responding so well to last week's message. Emails, phone calls; the office was very busy this week and, for some odd reason, Denise Bevins was on vacation. It will never happen again; this is her last vacation. I don't know what we were thinking or who approved it.

I felt a good spirit from many of you, even this morning, and even Facebook messages from people wanting help and saying "Okay, we've heard the message; submit to authority, and we are now willing to do that." Some of you were very honest in saying "We are the ones that, like Paul told Timothy, the sins are obvious, that's me," and some are like "Oh the trailing behind, that's me." We got messages this week from people struggling with sexual addictions, saying "We want help." We are going to get you help.

I want to share several things that we put into place. One of the things that elders do... You see this in Acts 6 when the ministry got to be that there was just too much need in the congregation for a few guys to tend to; they distributed that among deacons. We looked at that in 1 Timothy 3. What we want to do is kind of tell you about some of the things you can do to find help.

We have licensed marriage and family therapists here at our church that are more that willing to help you and encourage you when that situation comes up. We know part of our job is to help you figure out what would be best for you so we are going to help plug you in to good professional counselors. Some of you were very honest and bold about your marriages falling apart and knowing you need help. Some of you got special help this week.

We are obviously big advocates here of the National Institute of Marriage. We are going to try to move some of you towards an intensive and say here is why you need to do it and here is how you do it and get you plugged in. We have something here called Marriage 911 that we want to plug some of you into. You may think you would not be able to take four days off right now to go through an intensive. After I explain to you why four days off is a good thing and necessary and how you can recover from loss of work quicker than you can loss of spouse and you still don't want to do that, we have people that will sit down with you in this ministry. We've had countless marriages saved through Marriage 911.

Others of you called simply because you are Baptist. Again, we know you need recovery and we are seriously committed to helping you. With you, that will cost you probably a lot of time and a lot of money, but, again, we have licensed therapists available for you and we want to make that available.

It's been a rewarding week because people are coming to grips with this thing we call sin and how it is destroying their life and they are tired of it, they are exhausted of it. There is another ministry that we have here. This is where most of the calls or emails this week could be directed. It's a great starting point. It's called Solutions. If you will notice, we spread the coffee bar out today because they were kind of getting hidden over there in the corner. But when you leave here today, as you walk out in to the lobby, look past the coffee bar and you are going to see a table set up. It's our Solutions table. We want you to connect with them. They meet every week here at Woodland Hills and you need to get serious about it. Give me the date and time again, Kim. Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:00; it's an hour and a half. Cloud and Townsend are still the guys; they lead a video session and then you are in a group.

Here's what I want to encourage all of you to do as you move towards Solutions or Marriage 911 or an intensive or just meeting for counseling with somebody – and this is a big step and here is my last little big push to be pastoral – listen; do what they say! There is nothing more exhausting than you getting addicted to counseling. You come in and you want to meet a second time. We ask what you did with last time and you say nothing. Listen! Do what they say; follow through on it; guard your stubbornness and your heart from being blatantly rebellious to what you are being taught. These people are here to help you; they want to encourage you. So find a Solutions, find a therapist, find a Presbyterian if you're Baptist... find somebody. Get with somebody at this church who can bring you balance.

We are in 1 Timothy 6. To kind of give you a summary of where we've been, if you are just joining us, we are going through this book 1 Timothy. We did Ephesians, which was in Ephesus. Paul tells Timothy in Verse 3 to stay there in Ephesus, so we decided, as a church, to stay in Ephesus and we are looking at 1 Timothy.

We looked at instructions on worship, overseers and deacons. We looked at the fact that Timothy was considering neglecting his gift and Paul told him to work it, live it. He told him to watch his life and doctrine and continue to command and teach these things. Then we got into how we get along as a family. We looked at connecting people in the church. We looked at how to deal with young widows.

I was at Liberty on Friday. That is the school where Amy and I met. It's my favorite place to speak all year because it's just a bunch of young college students. There are about 10,000 of them at chapel on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. I went off on my 1 Timothy kick: college students, don't neglect the single moms, consider one. So I don't know if I will be invited back to Liberty ever again. But here was my message; it was really simple: single guys, if you've kissed dating good-bye, it's time to say hello and get married.

One young lady, in the midst of 10,000 students screamed out "YEAH!" You know me... don't distract me while I'm speaking. I immediately looked up and there she was and I asked all the cameras to zero in on her. They have this megatron thing in the Vines Center. They went in and plastered her mug up on four large screens around the Vines Center.

I said “You will probably never again yell during a message, but if you will ask this young lady out, I will pay for the date tonight and I’m not talking Chick Filet.” About five guys jumped up, but one guy jumped up first and he went “MEEE!” He was clear on the other side of the Vines Center. He came walking down the stairs over to her. We watched them walk arm in arm out of the Vines Center. We celebrated their young love. Can you imagine? We’ve got it all on video. You can probably go to liberty.edu and watch it this week. I was thinking they could get married, which is what we want. We want you young guys to start getting married. Quit being on this prolonged adolescent kick. You’re thinking “you are just beating that drum” and I am.

So then last week we looked at how your pastors need money and liquor and respect; we just did a fun series. And again, that’s why the Baptists were calling. They were like, “You know what? I’ve never really had a good argument of why.” And I go “Yea, you don’t.” That’s because they tried to use the Bible. That’s why they never had a good argument with that.

He looked at the respect that the leaders in the church need. You are going to see this is one of those places in your Bible. You know that when the Bible was written originally, it didn’t have chapters and verses. Those were put in later when we started printing the Bible in large numbers. This is one of those places where the chapter break doesn’t really come at a great spot. It’s just breaking up big parts of the text. You will notice in your Bible it kind of flows out of the whole idea of respecting the leaders and the elders in the church. Now it’s talking about the leaders in the workplace.

So today we are going to look at work and money. Again, last week we looked at how to take care of your pastors in a message we called *Cash for Clergy* and today we are looking at your work and money. Here’s our formula. The idea is love God, love people, use money and stuff. Our deal is not to acquire money and stuff and to be lovers of money. But we sometimes get it backwards and go with the use God, use people to get money. This problem is happening in Ephesus at the time so we are going to jump into Verse 1.

### **1. Work hard and respect your boss.**

In the first two verses we are going to see it in two contexts. One is what do you do if you work for a guy or a gal who is purely evil? They don’t love Jesus and nothing about the workplace reflects Christ. Unless your boss is in this service and that describes you, raise your hand. You work for a purely evil guy. But then there is another guy that you might work for... We are going to be taught not to take advantage and to make sure we work hard no matter what the situation on both counts. But you may have a Christian boss and he is going to warn us in a second to not take advantage of a believer in the workplace. So let’s look at the first verse.

<sup>1</sup>***All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their...*** To give you some of the background... Whenever we see the word *slavery*, we immediately go back to our country’s history. We go back to a day and time where we went and stole people from their homeland and brought them over here and sold them and abused them. There are two types of the slave trade that we need to consider. One is the purely evil where you go and steal somebody from their homeland and put them into forced labor for the rest of their life.

There is another type of slavery which is more the context of this passage. It's where people go into serving another person to pay off debt. At this time, some commentaries say that up to a third of the church in Ephesus would have been slaves. Think about a third of the people in here today. One third of you would be slaves.

Let me give you some of the background on this idea of slave and master in the Roman Empire. When the New Testament was written, roughly one third of all the people in the Roman Empire workforce were slaves. In the ancient world, it wasn't based on race, like it was based on in our country's history. Most people went into slavery for economic reasons. They couldn't pay their debts and it was temporary, just until they could get their bills paid off. This is why the scripture is using this term for us; you become a *bond servant* to your debt. Most of us feel that way if we get into a lot of debt, we are slaves to the person we owe money to and we never seem to get ahead.

Some people liked the security of slavery and simply chose to spend their entire lives as slaves because it brought them up one rung in the social status. It took them from being very poor to not so poor. Upon release, many emancipated slaves would advance in the Roman Empire. Some even became senators later on.

The Bible never condones slavery, nor does it condemn it. It assumes that slavery will always be a reality in most societies and so it regulates it so it will be humane. Old Testament law made provisions for the emancipation of slaves after seven years of slavery. So the Bible assumes that slavery is a part of a sinful world and it tries to regulate it, rather than what most of us come to understand about slavery in our country. What he is saying here is that some of you have found yourself in this bondage because you owe money.

Others... and this is actually something we dealt with in Haiti a little bit and I had never learned about it until we took our trip there. It's called *restaveks*. It's where the poorer families will put their children... it's a century old tradition in Haiti and many other countries. They will put their children into homes of a family that is slightly wealthier so those families will feed them, take care of them, shelter them, clothe them and educate them. But what has happened is much of that has turned into physical abuse and sexual abuse even. Many of them are being trafficked into the Dominican Republic. That's a different type of slavery and one that obviously Woodland Hills wasn't prepared to deal with when we went to Haiti and building a school, but now, hopefully, we will have a good ministry there in helping in that situation.

So he's going to give two situations in these two verses. The first is a Christian slave who works for a non-Christian and then a second one is the slave who finds himself in the church, worshiping with a believer and then going home and working for that believer. He says make sure you don't take advantage of that. Make sure that you work hard.

Many of us have non-believing bosses. Many of us have people that are very difficult to work with. He is saying when you work hard, you are being a testimony and you are sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ

through your work when you do it without whining, without complaining, showing up on time, punching in at the right time and punching out at the right time.

Here is what Colossians says: work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do as though you were working for the Lord, rather than for people. So when you and I go to work every day, we need to understand that it is the testimony of our Lord that is at stake, not just whether or not we get along with the boss.

We've all had bad bosses. We've all had bosses that have been difficult to get along with and difficult to work with. Some of you, whether it's in a theater or whether you work in a restaurant or you work in a hotel, may struggle with the boss. You make that bed. However many they tell you to make in an hour, you do it without whining, you do it without complaining, so they look at you and go what's different about you; why do you do your job without complaining and without whining and everybody else around you just mopes all day long. Let them know that it's because of your faith.

There is actually no greater testimony in the church than when people who are looking to hire someone call our church to see if we can offer them some names. We are just like Santa; we have a good list and a bad list. We've gotten in trouble before recommending people to work and they show up... Now, if we do recommend you because we know you need help, make sure you tell them clearly, when you get there, that you don't go to Woodland Hills because we don't want the testimony taken down.

He is saying if you are under this yoke... **<sup>1</sup>All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered.**

## **2. Don't take advantage of Christians in the workplace.**

Now here is where we are going to get into the business of Christianity. Oh my goodness... If ever there has been a time... How many of you are employers? If you are an employer and you would rather not hire Christians, raise your hand. You can be honest; we are not going to judge you. Okay, let me say it again. You don't want to hire Branson Christians. I must be dealing with different people because I'm constantly dealing with the people that use Christ for favors.

**<sup>2</sup>Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for them because they are brothers. Instead, they are to serve them even better, because those who benefit from their service are believers, and dear to them. These are the things you are to teach and urge on them.** Meaning you don't use "Hey, I'm going to come in a little bit late tomorrow." You don't talk to your boss, if he goes to this church, and ask for special favors because "after all, we go to church together" or "after all, we're believers" or "after all we are brothers here, but I know you're my boss out there." This can be a struggle. Make sure you don't take advantage of the name of Christ by asking for special favors.

## **3. Be on guard against televangelists.**

Then there are verses 3 – 5 and it gets harder as we go along. Let's read verses 3 – 5 and see if you can think of a better illustration. **<sup>3</sup>If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, <sup>4</sup>he is conceited and understands nothing.**

(underline *understands nothing*) ***He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.***

Now, with the business of Christianity, I can apply these three verses to myself. I can apply them to Christian authors, to people who make movies. The best selling books are the ones that have a lot of controversy and make people mad, and it typically makes people mad within the church. If you think about the best selling books right now, there has to be... just like any good movie, you have to have the drama. You can't just state what the scripture says; you have to go off on a tangent.

There is one particular televangelist I watch regularly but for the wrong reasons. Amy will come in and gasp, "You're watching him again?!" I'm just sitting there staring at the TV. It's kind of like seeing a car accident. I just can't take my eyes off it. I sit there sad, thinking about how people are believing this caca. Do you know why? It's because people get discontented in their faith which is what is happening here. Jesus stops being enough for people and they go off on all these little tangents. People see it as a means for financial gain.

We have to really be cautious with this. I think of two primary messages. Turn on Christian television any time you want and you are going to get one or two vents because it makes for good fund raising. They are prosperity gospel and end times. See if I'm wrong here. "Jesus gave his life up for you, he died on a cross for you, send me money." That doesn't do it. Do you know how I'm going to get your money? I'm going to scare you to death. I'm going to scare believers to death and I'm going to go after it.

It takes a lot of money to stay on the air. Can I go there and get the letters and the emails? I might as well because when they are on TV they are like "If you don't send money, we'll go off the air." I'm thinking please don't anybody send any money. For the gospel of Jesus, it would be the best thing because there are people watching this, thinking that is the church and it's not. The church is built upon the murdered savior that we just saw a couple of minutes ago. That's what makes the church the church and if it doesn't raise enough money to pay the salary, okay, then find a new way to make a living. He says that in this day, people were going off on tangents. We see it even today and he says they see it as a means for financial gain.

Let me tell you this has been a frustrating thing for me over the last two years in the church world. I've been meeting people of different ministries and trying to partner them together. Do you know why you can't partner ministries? We all have the same mission: first and foremost Jesus. But the reason ministries won't partner is because of the all mighty buck. Hey, why don't we do this project together? Oh that sounds great and we get all excited and then you get to the money party and that's when the wheels fall off the bus.

That's when people can't partner. Why? It's because everyone sitting in the room makes six figure salaries and they need to cover those. It quickly moves away from Jesus and on to what we need to cover. Listen, I'm throwing arrows at my business. I'm throwing arrows at how I make a living.

Let's go back to that part from last week on paying me; I just want to make sure everybody gets that before we get... Do not muzzle the ox while he treading out the grain. Anyway.

I knew this would be frustrating because some of you may have come to know the Lord with Christian television. Listen, the Lord, in the Old Testament, spoke through an ass, so he can speak through people on the television. I know that. He used a lot of different means. But do you have enough discernment as a believer to know when you are being fed a line on TV? I hope so. He is telling Timothy here to urge them on this. They need a warning on this because people are finding a good way to make a buck off of the church.

I'll just be honest with you, the kingdom only has so much money and I'm tired of people being beat down, because they are being asked to give to 14, 15, 20 different things. They are all good things, but we're just spreading out the money. I love when I turn on the radio and I hear people asking for money and then turn on the TV and they are asking for money and then, at the church, we take tithes and offerings.

If you are a parachurch ministry leader, I hope, in your efforts to raise money, you remember God's plan for his church. Don't get frustrate with the church and go off and do your own thing, neglecting what God's plan is, which is a church, led by elders, where people are cared for and needs are met. A lot of parachurch ministries that have started are a result of the church not doing its job, so I get that. But he says you need to be on guard against the false teachers that have moved away from the instruction of the Lord Jesus and godly teaching.

He says they are conceited and... He doesn't say, "Yea, but Ted, this guy that's on, that is selling this stuff, he's mostly good." No, the scripture says he understands nothing. He likes the quarrels, she likes the controversy because it's just like the democrats, the republicans and the tea parties; it's a great way to raise money. We really have to be on guard.

He says, <sup>5</sup>...**constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.** Be on guard and it's not just televangelists; it's authors, speakers, pastors, parachurch ministry leaders; it's a lot of different leaders who have budgets and salaries to cover. Make sure you know what the real motive is before you choose to give.

#### **4. Be content.**

It's the simplest point and probably the most important one of the whole morning. <sup>6</sup>**But godliness with contentment is great gain.** <sup>7</sup>**For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.** <sup>8</sup>**But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.** The church right now is kind of going through a shift. The best selling book in the church, that's been around for about a year now, is a book called Crazy Love. It is challenging people away from excessive living. That's probably the simplest way I can explain it. I think it's probably one of the greatest benefits of this recession. If you don't think this recession has benefits, you haven't been looking hard enough.

This recession has a lot of great benefits and for many of us, it is that we were living affluent lifestyles and not taking care of the needs of the people around us. We were enjoying building bigger, living crazily. Francis is a pastor. He left his church. He was so disgusted by what he saw in the church and he didn't see the church fixing it. He stood up one morning, after 16 years at a church that he founded, and he left. Many of you may be thinking "Is he abandoning the church?" I don't believe so, but he thinks there is more to the church than just a Sunday morning activity. I've said it a lot over the years that we want to be a 21<sup>st</sup> century church that's built on a 1<sup>st</sup> century model, not 21<sup>st</sup> Century church built on 15<sup>th</sup> century model and that's his heart. He's moving people away.

It's a trend right now. Bigger buildings, bigger budgets... We have to make everything big, big, big and corporate, corporate, corporate and hire CEOs to lead us instead of pastors. Find a younger leader in the church, talk to our younger staff and guess what? They are not impressed with big, huge, giant anything. One of them came up and said, "Our music program is really good, with spit and polish and all that, but I'm really more for..." I want you to know that person's exit interview went very well. But it's a shift and it's interesting to watch. You thinking, "Oh, here he goes; he's against us having money and having nice things." No, we love God, love others, and use money. You can have nice stuff, but money is not the problem. It's the love and the pursuit of money and how we go about it; that's when we get into sin and that's what he is going to talk about.

Proverbs 15 –

**<sup>16</sup> Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil.**

**<sup>17</sup> Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred.**

Proverbs 11 –

**<sup>24</sup> One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.**

**<sup>25</sup> A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.**

Ecclesiastes 5 –

**<sup>11</sup> As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them?** For years, Gary Smalley has made this statement. I would encourage you that if you are struggling in the area of money and dealing with money and materialism, get his book *Your Relationship with God*. He shares his story in there. Here's the deal: every square foot you end up owning, ends up owning you. **<sup>12</sup> The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep.**

I found a little story this week that fits very well with that. It's the story of a rich industrialist who was disturbed to find a fisherman sitting lazily beside his boat.

"Why aren't you out there fishing?" he asked.

"Because I've caught enough fish for the day," said the fisherman.

"Why don't you catch more fish than you need?" the rich man asked.

“Why would I want to do that?”

“Well, you could earn more money,” came the impatient reply, “and buy a better, bigger boat so you can go deeper and catch more fish. You couple purchase nylon nets, catch even more fish and make even more money. Soon you would have a fleet of boats and be rich like me.”

The fisherman asked, “Then what would I do?”

“You could sit around and enjoy life,” said the industrialist.

The fisherman replied as he looked placidly at the sea, “What do you think I’m doing right now?”

The sleep of a laborer is sweet. Many of you get caught in this trap. We get caught in this trap of acquiring more. The best thing about the recession is that some of you got phone calls saying that your credit cards were cancelled. A lot of you were like “Oh no, what am I going to do; this is going to be hard; how am I going to live?” You’re going to work; you’re going to pay your bills on time and then when you don’t have any money... I know this is a wacked out thought. This is for insane people, but once you run out of money, you’re not going to spend anymore until you make more money. Isn’t the Bible just profound? He says when people go after money... He says godliness with contentment.

You know we have a lot of old people at Woodland Hills, right? I talk about one old person a lot because he lets me pick on him. Jim Sedlacek is in his 70s and he’s had a very successful career. Do you know what stage of life he is in? He wants no more junk around his house. He’s done acquiring things. He’s in the stage of giving things away. Are there anymore old people in that stage? Is there anybody here with a storage shed you haven’t been to in at least a year? Sell it; just get rid of it; you’ll never need it again. Or a better way is if you just stop paying your rental on the shed and they will sell it for you.

We rent buildings to put our stuff in because we have so much stuff. How many of you feel like it’s like Christmas when you go back to the storage shed? You open a box and you’re surprised to see what’s in it. “Look at that! I didn’t even know I had that!” It’s like brand new to you. We have too much stuff. It ends up owning us. We are not content. We want more. He says just learn to be content; have godliness with contentment because that’s great gain.

Many of us need to learn to live on less and give more. What I have loved about the Haiti project is that, for many of you, it’s been the first time you’ve started giving. It’s a muscle you haven’t exercised. Giving hasn’t been something you’ve been able to do because you are not in the financial place to give.

I always love it when you hop out of your F250 with your venti latte and tell me how you can’t afford to give right now. Downsize to an F150 and start drinking tall and you can give. There are all sorts of creative ways. I usually use that argument when people tell me they can’t go to an intensive because they can’t afford it, as they sip their frapuccino. Here’s why you can’t afford it. This is the problem; this right there, this drink from Starbucks, is causing your divorce. You are allowing money to run your life. **<sup>2</sup>For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. <sup>3</sup>But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.**

I like the shift that is happening in the church. I need the shift that is happening in the church because it's away from materialism. Now let's just be honest. Can many of you look around at Christianity over the last 20 or 30 years and see how that money of the 90s and that materialism just crept into the church and churches are bigger and better and more expensive, more elaborate. The scripture says we have to be on guard against that.

## 5. Love God, not money.

Money is not evil. Do not leave here today thinking I'm talking against money. We need money. We need to use money. You need to eat; you need to be clothed, you need to have shelter. But we need to be wise investors, cautious debtor, diligent earners, and prudent consumers. Let me just say this to the young guys again. For many of you young guys in here, the world has taught you how to be a consumer, not a producer so you are just consuming. Life is defined by what you can consume.

I read an article this week in the Washington Post. The sweet spot for marketing companies right now is 18 – 34 year old men. Because they know they are not producers, they realize they are consumers. Just watch the commercials. They are geared around that age group. "Wear this deodorant and women will jump you in public." Really? I wear nice deodorant and nobody has ever jumped on me. It's all in the mindset. You need this. If you don't have this, this won't happen. You've got to get this because when you get this, this will happen. Godliness with contentment is what we are going after.

<sup>2</sup>***People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful [multilevel marketing schemes] desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.*** Every time I am at a coffee shop or restaurant in town and I see somebody looking across the table at somebody who has no business savvy... They are not entrepreneurial, they are down on their luck, they are struggling to make ends meet and here is the guy sitting across the table, saying "Yea, but do you have five friends?" I've been known to stop in those situations and tell her to run out the door. It's a single mom with three kids. She won't be able to do this.

Some of you talk to the telemarketers who are offering you things. You see the signs on the side of the road and you punch in the numbers and you go after it. Listen, there are some people making money in evil ways and you need to know that. They want to take advantage of you to make their money. As your pastor, I don't want that for you. I'd rather you build a school in Haiti, write the check to us and I won't even ask you for five friends. Be careful. When you are in that mode of wanting to get rich, you fall into foolish, harmful things that are destructive. They will just frustrate you.

Let's put this in prospective. You want to know how you will know if it's a legitimate job or not when you see one of those signs. Listen, I've taken jobs where they've given me money to work. I've even taken jobs where they give me a signing bonus to come to the company. When you take a job and it requires up front money, run. It's not a job; it's a foolish, harmful thing that is going to frustrate the living daylights out of you.

Now, if you are in one of these foolish, harmful things right now and that's how you make your income, please continue to tithe, but don't be destructive. I know some of you are thinking that it's about the

product. Is it really the product? Again, I'm not naming you; I'm asking the Holy Spirit to do that today. You let the Holy Spirit work on you when you sit across the table from somebody this week trying to make a living for yourself. There are honest and dishonest ways to make a living. He says be careful because there is a certain person that this prays on.

**<sup>10</sup>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.** Hebrews 13: 5 says it this way. **<sup>5</sup>Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."** It's godliness with contentment.

Ecclesiastes 5: 1 - ***Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.***

Jesus put it this way in Matthew 6: 21. ***For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>24</sup>"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.***

Luke 12: 21 – ***Yes a person is fool to store up earthly wealth but not to have a rich relationship with God.***

Our challenge to you as you leave today is to go out this week as a testimony for our Lord in your workplace. Manage your money well, don't love it, and don't pursue it in an eager way or in a "get rich quick" way. Be cautious of people who are out there to take advantage of you and in the economic recession, learn the good lessons. Don't fall into the traps. We love you here at Woodland Hills, we are here to help any way we can.

We always have prayer team members up here if you need somebody to help. If you will fill out this green card for us, we'd love to get to know you. You can drop it in one of the buckets on your way out. See you next Sunday.