

Live Without Fear

Hebrews 13:5-6

INTRO

- Instability in the World: Political, Social, Economic – recession, unemployment, wage freezes, housing crisis/home values
- Hebrews addresses how to live in a world filled with difficulty

BACKGROUND

- Hebrews is all about Jesus and faith – 10 times the word “better” occurs in relation to Jesus and His ministry, intertwined with the necessity of having faith in life, as we relate to God
- “my righteous one shall live by faith . . .” Heb 10:38
- “without faith it is impossible to please him . . .” Heb 11:6

TRANS: 12:28-29

“Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.”

- Mighty, magnificent God, that we know and relate to by faith – now, how do we follow him, by faith
- “Gospel Gap”

Looking at one particular area where we, with reverence and awe, approach this Consuming Fire of a God

Heb 13:5-6

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."⁶ So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" (Hebrews 13:5-6 ESV)

TRANS

- I see two foundational exhortations in this brief passage

1. Guard Your Desires 5a

- Guarding Desires - Two sides of a single coin. Really can't have one without the other (ELAB)
- When we consider this passage, we must think about Love of Money and Contentment together – Love of Money and Contentment with what we have are contrasted therefore Money = Things, stuff, possessions, etc.
- Don't think of the caricature of loving money – sitting on a pile of cash, lighting cigars with \$20 bills
- Talking about Love of Money as a *means* to other things

FIRST SIDE OF THE COIN – Be Free from the Love of Money 5a

- Lit. be "without the love of money"
- Adjective –descriptive. Our lives are to be described as being free from the love of money
- **Love** of money is the issue, not money alone
- Money neither good nor bad. Wealth/poverty neither good nor evil, neither virtue or vice
- Right uses of money: purchase the necessities of life, care for our families, care for our church, promotion of the Gospel, means of expressing love and appreciation towards others, means of extending grace and mercy towards others by meeting their physical needs (benevolence fund)

ILL Money is like explosives – have a proper use in construction, mining, but a very dangerous is mishandled (ELAB)

SECOND SIDE OF THE COIN - Be Content with what You Have 5b

- Be without the Love of Money, be with Contentment
- Contentment def. =
 - peaceful, submissive, satisfaction with the things God provides
 - regarding the things that God provides as being sufficient
- Look at what you have, and say “that is enough, that is sufficient”
- We become dis-contented when we dissatisfied with what God has provided: should say, “God has given me enough.”
- Turn to money to ease that dis-contentment – means to get what we want
- There is a godly form of discontentment –
- Discontented with our knowledge of God and maturity, discontentment with our pursuit of righteousness and display of the fruit of the spirit – not speaking of this type of discontentment
- **But not here: this passage focuses upon *things, objects* that we turn our affections upon

****TRANS****

- “Guarding your Desires” is *rejecting* the Love of Money and *embracing* Contentment
- What are reasons that the Love of Money and Contentment are such concerns for a follower of Jesus

1) The Love of Money Opposes Love for God – Mat 6:24

²⁴ *"No one can serve two masters, for 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 God and money. (Mat 6:24 ESV)*

- Cannot love your idol and love God – spiritual adultery
- God has exclusive, first-rights to our love - Love of Money and Love of God cannot co-exist (ELAB)
- John warns in 1 John 2:15:

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1Jo 2:15 ESV

- Do not love the world or the “things” in the world
- Not even a place for a lower-level love of money – Second Greatest Commandment is to love our neighbor
- Love is primarily an interpersonal affection – not to be directed to inanimate things
- As presented in Scripture, love is not to be directed towards things – love is to be personal, to God and to others
- Recognize that there is a “vernacular” use of the word love (I love the beach, etc.) – what we really mean is that we like it very much, or maybe we don’t mean that
- Not the best use of the word “love” – used too easily, true love is slighted by the overuse of the word . . .

- The Love of Money is a grave concern because it opposes love for God

2) Love of Money is Self Destructive

- Look at 1 Tim 6:6-11

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 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. ¹⁰ 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. (1Tim 6:6-10 ESV)

- Those who desire riches fall into temptation, snares, senseless and harmful desires
- Desire for riches leads to ruin and destruction
- Root of all kinds of evils – feeds/nourishes evil
- May even lead you to abandon the faith
- Love of money is a dead end road
- Here’s an example of the destructive nature of misplaced love – Paul writes to young Timothy in 2 Tim 4:10:

“For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me . . .”

- You may say, I don’t love money (I just like it a lot), notice the contrast here in 1 Tim 6, don’t desire riches, but be content with food and clothing
- Be content with those things that sustain life and health and ensure modesty and propriety
- Doesn’t even list shelter - must have food that I eat and clothes that I wear, two people can’t eat the same bite of food or wear the same article of clothing, but they can share shelter
- This list for contentment is pretty short . . .

3) Love of Money is Foolish

- Just read in 1 Tim 6 that there is *great gain* in godliness paired with contentment

- We also saw in that passage that when you die, you can't take it with you – bring nothing in, take nothing out
- **Problem with loving money/possession is that it is horribly shortsighted – forgets God and eternity
- Look at what Jesus taught about this Luke 12:15-21

"Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸ And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'

²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:15-21 ESV)

- Prepared himself for life in this world, excelled at it by many people's standard, but he was unprepared for eternity, he neglected his soul
- God called him a fool
- It's "The one who does with the most toys wins" mentality
- Point is not to have "had" a good life, it's to have a good life eternally
- Have we forgotten . . .

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Mat 6:19-21 ESV)

- Borrowing Randy Alcorn's words, "Storing up earthly treasures isn't simply wrong, it's stupid."
- Love of money is foolish because it is a bad investment, an empty effort that ignores eternity and produces things that do not last

BIG POINT – Regarding the Love of Money

- Love of money opposes God, love of money is self-destructive to your life and your soul, and love of money is foolish, because what it produces does not last
- What is the solution – how does one move from Love of Money to Contentment?

2. Trust God – He Will Help You 5c-6 (Read All 5-6)

- See immediately, in this instance, the love of money and lack of contentment is rooted in fear
 - Verse 5 grounds contentment in the reality that God *does not abandon* His children
 - Not a passive presence, arms folded, merely aware of what is happening – God is active, He does not leave us on our own
 - Believers will never know what it means to be abandoned by God – however, Jesus does know, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”
 - The abandonment of Jesus by the Father at the cross ensures that you, Christian, will never be abandoned (**ELAB – GOSPEL**)
 - We are free to be content, knowing that God will give us whatever is truly needed, what is best, and what glorifies his name
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- In this discussion Hebrews, Love of Money is rooted in the *fear of man* – see that in vs. 6?
 - FF Bruce said that, “Gnawing anxiety will lead us to the love of money.”

- Money becomes a god – served/worshipped because it *saves us* from the things we fear
- Being fearful of the actions, opinions of others, individuals and groups, pushes us to seek means of easing or remedying those fears – we want to deliver ourselves from those situations where we feel as though we are at the whim and mercy of others
- But we need the god of Money to help us

APP

If I had more money, I wouldn't be worried about my job

If I had more money, I wouldn't be worried about what my employer thinks

If I had more money, I wouldn't be worried about the economy

If I had more money, I wouldn't be worried about losing my house

If I had more money, I wouldn't be worried about my medical bills

If I had more money, I wouldn't be worried about my reputation and what others think of me

If I had more money, I wouldn't be worried about what the kids are going to wear to school

If I had more money, I wouldn't be worried about . . . "fill in the blank:"

- There is no need to fear, God will help you.
- The great relief is that God's help is not dependent upon us – it's grounded in God Himself – that's grounds for real confidence

Rom 8:31-39

³¹ . . . *If God is for us, who can be against us?* ³² *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*

³³ *Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.* ³⁴ *Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died--more than that, who was raised--who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.* ³⁵ *Who shall separate us from*

the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:31-39 ESV)

CONC

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- What are you loving more than anything else, what holds your affections
- What drives your actions, occupies your thoughts, guides and schedules your life and priorities
- What gives you satisfaction, contentment, peace – what removes fear from your life? What would give you more peace and comfort in the coming year
- How do I discern/gauge whether I'm guarding my desires well or not

Diagnostic Questions –

What/Who Do You Love?

What/Who Do You Need?

What/Who Do You Depend Upon?

- Guard Your Desires, Trust God, He will help you.

For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you." ¹⁴ Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you, declares the LORD; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 41:13-14 ESV)