



Money Is The Root Of All Evil | Doug Wekenman | 08.25.2024

Weekly Study

SHARE

As group members get settled, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how life is going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

- **Share a high and a low from last week.**
- **What's your "When XYZ happens in my life, I'll finally feel like I'm in a safe and secure position to do, give, or serve in XYZ capacity?" Explain.**

GROW

Welcome to week 4 of our Bad Theology Series. As we continue diving deeper into our understanding of what shapes our personal theology (teachings, experiences, beliefs, and practices), we hope that your ability to discern between good, bad, and incomplete theology has grown as God continues to reveal his heart and will for you and your life.

In this week's message, "Money Is The Root Of All Evil," Doug unpacks several commonly misunderstood scriptures that have been misused—either to exploit others or to justify feelings of fear and bitterness about money. By shifting our hearts and minds away from viewing money and wealth as idols and, instead, seeing them as the fruit of our faithful obedience to God, we

can break free from the grip of fear and obsession with money. In doing so, money becomes a powerful tool for advancing God's kingdom.

Read 1 Timothy 6:10 NLT, Ecclesiastes 5:10

- **What was your biggest takeaway from this week's message? Explain.**
- **What is 1 Timothy 6:10 trying to teach us? How do you personally relate to this? Explain.**
- **Pastor Andrew Matrone once said, "If you don't develop a heart for generosity when you have nothing, then the practice of generosity will become nearly impossible when you have everything." Discuss this statement and how it relates to Ecclesiastes 5:10. Have you ever experienced a similar mindset? Explain.**
- **How has your view of money and its role in your faith journey changed after hearing this message?**

M O V E

Read Matthew 25:14-29, Matthew 6:19-21

The prosperity gospel teaches that if we give enough and have enough faith, God will make us rich. This mindset turns our relationship with God into a formula: "If I do everything right, God owes me, and He will do this for me." But when God doesn't deliver on these expectations, we may walk away from our faith, angry at God for not fulfilling a promise He never made. Paul warned Timothy about this very danger in 1 Timothy 6:10.

On the opposite end is the poverty gospel. This perspective emphasizes scriptures that call us to sell everything and follow Jesus, to shed what holds us back, and to never grow weary in service and sacrifice. However, it conveniently overlooks the many examples of God's loving and abundant provision, protection, and blessing to those whose hearts are fully surrendered to His will. This imbalance can lead Christians to inevitable burnout and bitterness.

- **What stands out to you in the Parable of the Three Servants? Explain.**
- **What do you think each of the three servants believed about themselves, their situation, what had been entrusted to them, and the master that influenced their stewardship? Explain.**

This week, our challenge to you is to give 25% of your next paycheck to any cause that glorifies God and see how it transforms your heart..... Just Kidding! See the question below.

- **How did your heart respond when you read the statement above? What feelings, emotions, and reactions did you experience?**
- **What does your reaction reveal about your faith/trust in God and your relationship with money? Explain.**
- **How did this reveal where your heart is (Matthew 6:19-21)?**

The true gospel is found in between our flawed ideas of prosperity and poverty. As Doug suggests, the theology we should embrace is that wealthy Christians can change the world—not by living in fear, but by living in faith. When we trust God with a faithful and obedient heart, wealth—once an idol in our lives—becomes the fruit of our faithfulness, freeing us to advance God’s kingdom.

The truth is, God doesn’t need our money; everything belongs to Him already. The extent to which we give is far less important to God than how the practice of generosity transforms our hearts and builds our trust in Him. Real faith doesn’t maintain; it multiplies—a lesson beautifully illustrated in the Parable of the Three Servants.

While “worldly wealth” can so easily become your purpose, “Kingdom Wealth” has a purpose. You were made with the ability to create wealth, and nobody benefits when you play small with that gift.

[Watch this 30-second video of Steve Irwin talking about money and purpose.](#)

Break down Steve Irwin's video as a group.

- **What does Steve Irwin's relationship with / belief in money look like? Explain.**
- **Was acquiring wealth his purpose or a tool he used to fulfill his purpose? How does this relate to Doug's comparison of worldly wealth vs. kingdom wealth? Explain.**
- **Imagine what your life and the world could look like if you shared Steve's perspective on money and had the same unwavering belief in God's purpose for your life as he did. How might that change everything? Explain.**
- **Any final thoughts on this week's message and/or the study?**

P R A Y

Spend some time praying for one another in the group, specifically around financial stewardship and trust in God's provision.

A C T

Put this week's lessons into practice by trying one (or several) of the activities below.

- **Conduct a "heart check" regarding your relationship with money. Pray about areas where you struggle to trust God financially.**
- **Review your current giving practices. Are there areas where you feel led to be more generous or strategic in your giving?**

- **If you don't already, consider implementing a budgeting system that prioritizes tithing and generosity.**
- **Identify one way you can use your resources (time, talent, or treasure) this week to bless someone else or contribute to God's kingdom.**