



**Q**uestion: Why is it that people have different opinions on money. Some see the value of having money, while others don't. And why does God say the "love of money is the root of all evil."

**A**nswer: These are good questions and requires more than one answer. But, due to space limitations, we will try to answer your question with only one answer that will hopefully answer your question. Let's begin with the scripture you quoted above which is found in 1 Timothy 6:10, this a good starting point. (*"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."* 1 Tim. 6:10).

First of all, money itself is not evil. Pick up any denomination bill — hold it in your hand, what does it do to you? Can it speak, can it harm you, can it walk, etc.? No! Money is a piece of paper that has a value printed on it to be used to exchange for services rendered. How one values money is a "mind-set and a heart matter." Valuing money the wrong way can either give us a false love for money, and not a heart for the things of God. Paper money has no power!

Father God has a lot to say about money in the Word of God, so let's look at a couple parables. The rich man and Lazarus. The Word tells us that there was a rich man who had everything, money, fame, material riches and power. There was also a poor man by the name of Lazarus. He was a beggar ill with sores. He laid at the door of the rich man hoping for crumbs from the table of the rich man to satisfy his hunger. The rich man ignored Lazarus' cry for help.

The parable goes on to tell us that both died. One to eternal damnation and one to eternal life. The rich man's heart was fixed on money, fame, and power. He didn't have a heart for the poor and needy. The Word of God tells us it is easier for a camel to get through an eye of a needle than for the rich to enter into the kingdom of God (Matt. 19:24). Why! Because they have a heart for the things of this world instead of having a heart for the things of God. Lazarus although poor, had a heart for God instead of the things of this world. Proverbs 14:20 tells us that the *"poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends."*

With the right mind-set and having a heart for the things of God, we then learn the true value of money. Money is not to be stored up for self! God says it is He that gives men the power to make wealth (Deut. 8:18). We are simply stewards of whatever God gives us, such as money, material possession, etc. As children of God we are not to covet the things of this world, because they are temporal and will pass away, they have no value for the kingdom of God. Our treasures are found in Heaven. These treasures will never pass away!

Jesus tells of another parable in Luke 12:16-22 of another rich man that had more than enough food and wealth. Instead of giving to the poor, the widow, or the fatherless, he chose to tear down his existing barns and to build new ones to store his wealth. After rebuilding, he died! The Bible says he "laid up treasures for himself, and was not rich toward God." We are rich toward God when we show kindness to the poor, etc.! Don't allow money to control you. Seek God's wisdom on how to help others with what God blesses you with so that your works will have kingdom value. The value found in money is when we can freely give it away for the kingdom of God by helping others that do not have.

If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving—it will be used to measure what is given back to you.  
*Luke 6:38*