

Money

By J.C. Ryle

"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." (1 Timothy 6:10)

The love of money is one of the greatest snares to a man's soul. The history of the Church abounds in illustrations of this truth. For **money Joseph** was sold by his brethren. For **money Samson** was betrayed to the Philistines. For **money Gehazi** deceived Naaman, and lied to Elisha. For **money the Son of God** was delivered into the hands of wicked men.

Let us all be on our guard against the love of **money** .

The world is full of it in our days.

The plague is abroad.

Thousands who would abhor the idea of worshipping idols, are not ashamed to make **an idol of gold**. We are all liable to the infection, from the least to the greatest.

We may love **money** without having it, just as we may have **money** without loving it.

It is an evil that works very deceitfully.

It carries us captives before we are aware of our chains.

Once let it get the mastery, and **it will harden, paralyze,**

scorch, freeze, blight, and wither our souls. It overthrew an apostle of Christ. Let us take heed that it does not overthrow us.

One leak may sink a ship.

One unmortified sin may ruin a soul.

We ought frequently to call to mind the solemn words, "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and lose his own soul?" "We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." Our daily prayer should be, "Give me neither poverty nor riches. Feed me with the food that is needful for me."

Our constant aim should be to be **rich in grace.**

Those who "will be rich" in worldly possessions often find at last that they have made the worst of bargains. Like Esau, they have bartered an eternal portion for a little temporary gratification. Like Judas Iscariot, they have sold themselves to everlasting perdition!

(J. C. Ryle, "The Gospel of Matthew" 1856)