

1 Timothy 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

For the love of money is the root of all evil (ρίζα γὰρ πάντων τῶν κακῶν ἐστὶν ἡ φιλαργυρία, rhiza gar pantōn tōn kakōn estin hē philargyria)—'the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.' Rhiza means root. Philargyria means love of money, avarice—from philos (love) and argyros (silver/money). Note: not money itself but the love of money is evil's root. Also, 'a root' (many translations) not 'the root'—money-love produces many evils, though not exclusively all evil.

Which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith (ἧς τινες ὀρεγόμενοι ἀπεπλανήθησαν ἀπὸ τῆς πίστεως, hēs tines oregomenoi apeplanēthēsan apo tēs pisteōs)—'by craving which, some have wandered away from the faith.' Oregō means to reach for, desire, aspire to. Apoplanaō means to lead astray, cause to wander. **And pierced themselves through with many sorrows** (καὶ ἑαυτοὺς περιέπειραν ὀδύναις πολλαῖς, kai heautous periepiran odynais pollais)—'and pierced themselves with many griefs.' Peripeirō means to pierce through. Odynē means pain, grief, sorrow.

Money-love produces spiritual destruction (wandering from faith) and emotional devastation (many sorrows). Those who pursue wealth impale themselves on self-inflicted pain—broken relationships, anxiety, guilt, emptiness. The imagery is vivid: money-lovers run toward wealth and impale themselves on the very thing they desired.

Historical Context

The ancient world saw vast wealth inequality and constant financial anxiety among the poor. The desire to escape poverty and achieve security drove many to compromise morally—dishonesty, exploitation, greed. Paul warns: this path leads to spiritual apostasy and emotional torment. Better to be poor and faithful than rich and destroyed. History confirms it: the love of money has destroyed countless lives and souls.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How is loving money different from having money—where's the line between stewardship and idolatry?
2. What specific 'sorrows' do people pierce themselves with through pursuing wealth?
3. How can we guard our hearts against money-love in a materialistic culture?

Interlinear Text

ρίζα	γὰρ	πάντων	τῶν	κακῶν	ἐστὶν	ἡ	φιλαργυρία
the root	For	of all	G3588	evil	is	G3588	the love of money
G4491	G1063	G3956		G2556	G2076		G5365
ἣς	τινες	ὀρεγόμενοι	ἀπεπλανήθησαν	ἀπὸ	τῆς		
which	while some	coveted after	they have erred	from	G3588		
G3739	G5100	G3713	G635	G575			
πίστεως	καὶ	ἐαυτοὺς	περιέπειραν	ὀδύνας	πολλαῖς		
the faith	and	themselves	pierced	sorrows	with many		
G4102	G2532	G1438	G4044	G3601	G4183		

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 1:19 (Parallel theme): So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

1 Timothy 6:9 (Parallel theme): But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Psalms 32:10 (Faith): Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.

Titus 1:11 (Parallel theme): Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

Proverbs 1:31 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

Isaiah 56:11 (Parallel theme): Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.

Matthew 23:13 (Parallel theme): But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Jude 1:11 (Parallel theme): Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

Micah 3:11 (Evil): The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us.

2 Timothy 4:10 (Love): For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

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