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"Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless."

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. "

We might ask, "What do these Bible verses have to do with us?" This fellowship gathered here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church probably does not picture itself as a group of money lovers wandering from their faith. We do not serve two masters. Christ is our master, not money. Yet, we are all sinners subjecting ourselves to human will. These verses serve as a reminder that the lure of money can be stronger than the human will.

The temptation to turn our love away from our Lord and make money a primary focus of our lives is great. The world around us, in large part, measures success by the wealth one accumulates. Even Christians are affected by this mindset. When problems enter our lives, it often seems that more money is the solution. We may think we see a better lifestyle just a few dollars away.

Solomon wrote, "I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner." When we fall to temptation and place the love of money first in our lives, we hurt both ourselves and others. We hurt ourselves because our hearts are drawn away from God and our Christian duty. We hurt others because we do not deal generously in Christian brotherly love, but become oppressive and deal harshly with others to our advantage. We hoard that which we have and do not give. .

By the working of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we have been brought to faith in Christ and to the realization that He, the risen Lord and Savior, reigns in our lives. He will make use of the money and wealth He has given us to do His work. In Christ, we are content with that and go about our labor, realizing that godliness with contentment is great gain. "

O Kenneth L. Williams

When we feel tempted, we pray for strength and guidance. We ask that our hearts be drawn ever closer to our Savior and that He would guide us in all that we do. As His children, Christ is the focus of our lives, we use our money in a God-pleasing manner. God has made us rich in every way so that, in Christian love, we can be generous on every occasion.

O Kenneth L. Williams