

I Love My Addiction

A Program with a Purpose – Exposing Your Value to God

1 Corinthians 16:15

Lesson Ten

Mine, Mine, Mine

Remove Your Old Greedy Ways and Replace Them with a Giving Spirit!

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again (Luke 6:38).

The Introduction taught us to change our masters from *self* to the *Good Shepherd*.

Lesson One – Remove **what you think** and replace it with **what God thinks**.

Lesson Two – **Use it or Lose it** – use what you have learned daily

Lesson Three – Remove **man’s philosophy** and replace it with the **Living Word of God!**

Lesson Four – Remove all **the grudges you have against people** who have harmed you and **replace it with a forgiving spirit** – Grace!

Lesson Five – Remove the **haunting memory of your past** and replace it with the **possibility of using your past to help others find the freedom** you have in your Instructor, Jesus Christ the Living Word!

Lesson Six – Remove your **old friends** and replace them with **good Godly friends!**

Lesson Seven – Remove the **old music** that will honor the devil and replace them with **good God honoring music!**

Lesson Eight – Remove the **lying tongue** and replace with one that only **speaks truth**.

Lesson Nine – Remove your **old attitude** that you do not need anyone or anything to help you (you can quit anytime you choose) and replace it with **total reliance upon God and His Word!**

Now, we will hit you where it really hurts; your wallet! You may say, why in the world would you be talking about money in an addiction program? Great question— there are more lessons taught in the Bible about money than any other topic, so, why not learn how the Biblical purpose for money will help you replace your destructive addictions with productive ones? The last temptation the devil used in is effort to tempt Jesus to sin, was covetousness, ***Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me*** (Matthew 4:8, 9). This lesson was written to help you see the importance of removing greed and replacing it with giving.

GOD HAS GIVEN US MONEY TO BE USED AS A TOOL, but the love of money is the starting place for evil, ***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 Timothy 6:10). King Solomon, the author of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, quite possibly the wealthiest man that ever lived, made this statement at the end of his life, ***He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity*** (Ecclesiastes 5:10). Solomon definitely knew what he was talking about. His love for money left him addicted to wine, women and wealth. Because he chose to run after his addictions instead of following the wisdom God gave him, it is estimated that he died at the ripe young age of fifty-eight years old! Solomon knew what was right, he just chose to do it his way. He penned down these words while he was disobeying them, ***There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches*** (Proverbs 13:7). I will always be amazed at the man Solomon. His example clearly teaches us that money will either make you or break you!

King David records for us a proven outline for success in Psalm 15. David was known as a man after God's own heart, ***...I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will*** (Acts 13:22). He was used to pen down, at least 75 of the 150 Psalms. A man loved by God and used by God. Listen to his instructions carefully:

A Psalm of David. LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth {talks behind the backs of others} not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach {suggest blame for anything} against his neighbour. In whose eyes a vile {worthless or despicable} person is contemned; but he honoureth {greatly respected} them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward

against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved. (Psalm 15:1-5) (explanations added)

Notice the elements listed to be successful in the eyes of God:

1. A person that does his best to live clean – ***He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness***
2. A person that **ALWAYS** tells the truth – ***and speaketh the truth in his heart***
3. A person that uses his words to encourage instead of tearing down others – ***He that backbiteth not with his tongue*** {talks behind the backs of others}
4. A person who is always kind to others – ***nor doeth evil to his neighbour***
5. A person that accepts personal responsibility and does not blame others for their problems – ***nor taketh up a reproach*** {suggest blame for anything} ***against his neighbour.***
6. A person who has friends that are Christians that love and serve God too – ***but he honoureth*** {greatly respected} ***them that fear the LORD*** {continually dwelling in God's presence}.
7. A person who is always the same where ever he goes and whatever he does – ***and changeth not***
8. Notice lastly, how money is a large part of a successful Christian character – ***He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent.***

In other words, David was saying that you are not to be so worried about the almighty dollar that you are willing to make others suffer so you can take their money. The promise at the end of this passage makes it worth the effort to implement all of these character traits into your life – ***He that doeth these things shall never be moved.*** God wants you to learn that He will help fight your battles while you are helping Him fight His.

During an addiction meeting at the local workhouse, a young man requested prayer for the family of someone he knew who had overdosed. One of the volunteers that works with the men made this statement to the inmates; **You are valuable!** There is no person alive that God does not love. He gave His life on the cross of Calvary to pay your sin debt and then offered to you the free gift

of eternal life. My friends, when you call on Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour, He will save your eternal soul, but by making Him your Master and Instructor, He will change your life here on earth like you have never imagined!

First, let's look at what the Bible says about making money, ***He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich*** (Proverbs 10:4). God made man to work right from the very beginning, ***And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it*** (Genesis 2:15). God put Adam in the garden to keep everything in perfect order. Remember, this was before Eve and sin was ever introduced! Work, work, work and more work! Men should work! When sin came along, the fun of working was removed and replaced with blood, sweat and tears! When a man spends his day working, his nights will be used for resting and weekends for worshipping the LORD. Instead of taking all your time to fulfill selfish, destructive habits and spending all your money to feed your addictions, switch from taking to giving and see how much happier, healthier and wiser you will become. The Bible states that even nature itself teaches that a man ought to work:

Go to the ant, thou sluggard {habitually lazy}; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth {to labor with pain}, and thy want as an armed man {armed robbers} (Proverbs 6:6-11).

1. Notice who this passage is directed to – ***thou sluggard*** {habitually lazy}
2. He is instructed to observe the ant and change your foolish lazy habits into wise working habits – ***consider her ways, and be wise:***
3. No one should have to tell you that a man should be willing to work hard to provide a comfortable life for himself and his family – ***Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.***
4. The question that is presented is trying to get the sluggard to take inventory of his own lazy work habits – ***How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:***

5. The results of the lazy man are then revealed; laziness is worse than being robbed by a band of marauders – ***So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth*** {to labor with pain}, ***and thy want as an armed man***

Proverbs 31 describes the attributes of a virtuous woman, ***She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands*** (Proverbs 31:13). Listen carefully to what the Bible says about this woman, ***Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies*** (Proverbs 31:10). There is no amount of money compared to having a wife that is virtuous {morally pure in mind and body}! When a wife takes care of her family without concern of what she gets in return, God honors her with the title of the ***Virtuous Woman!*** This woman will work, work and then work some more to see that her family is well taken care of, ***She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness*** (Proverbs 31:27). She will instruct her children to do the same. This will make for a very happy home!

When a person works hard for the money they have, they will be much wiser with the way they spend each dollar. ***He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich*** (Proverbs 10:4). Nobody owes you a job, including the United States Government. The welfare program was not designed for lazy people to fleece those who earn a living and pay their taxes, but its purpose was to help those who cannot physically help themselves.

Now that you have decided that you want to change your destructive addiction into one that is productive, hard physical and mental work will be a major factor in this new life. It is very rewarding for a man to work hard and pay his own way in this walk of life.

1. You will have a sense of accomplishment when you pay your own way
2. You will be much more careful how you spend your money when you have to labor for each dollar
3. Due to the expense of most addictions, you will begin to experience money coming in that used to fly away

It will be very difficult for the man that is addicted to money to be content working for ten dollars an hour. Some could sell drugs and make five or ten thousand in a no time at all; now it will take you forty hours to make four-hundred dollars! This person will need to rely on the LORD in a greater way than the person whose addiction left them bankrupt. The temptation to go back to the old money-making schemes that put cash in their pockets will be very strong! Keep in mind,

this was the last temptation Jesus endured in the wilderness, **...All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me** (Matthew 4: 9).

When you choose to follow Jesus, your Instructor and Shepherd, He will fight these temptations for you, **The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:** (2 Peter 2:9). If you remember, fast cash always spends fast, **Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase** (Proverbs 13:11). Jesus, our Instructor and Master has some great counsel concerning this topic:

1. Simply be satisfied with what you have, remember, if the LORD is your **Shepherd** you shall not want – **Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content** (Philippians 4:11). This was something that Paul had to learn too.
2. God will provide you with everything you need to survive in this life. He also knows that if you are not satisfied with what He gives you, your cravings for the almighty dollar will take you away from the house of God and leave you desolate and stranded in your old addictive habits – **And having food and raiment let us be therewith content** (1 Timothy 6:8).
3. Dwelling in the presence of God at all times {the fear of the LORD} is more than enough to get you through, you have His promise that He will be there to take care of you – **Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee** (Hebrews 13:5).

Many of you have good jobs and work hard for all you have. Many have lost everything, and then some, because of their addictions! Once you change your destructive addictions into productive ones, you will have a lot more money than you did. We will survey our Instruction Manuel to see how you should spend your money properly! There is a good formula to follow in using your money as a tool to help you change your destructive addictions into productive ones. Below is the ten-ten-eighty theory:

1. Give God what is rightfully His – **Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year** (Deuteronomy 14:22).
 - a. Ten-percent of your gross income is to given to God and His work. It – **Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove**

me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive It (Malachi 3:10). God challenges you to prove Him or put Him to the test of giving. **HE WILL POUR OUT BLESSINGS! IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO LIE!**

- b. Giving back to God through tithes and offering can become the one productive action that will bring you great rewards both here on this earth as well as in Heaven – ***Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver*** (2 Corinthians 9:7).
 - c. The other option will leave you with regret and sorrow, ***Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings*** (Malachi 3:8). I cannot imagine someone robbing God knowing that He is watching them do it!
 - d. Failure to do your duty in giving your tithe is like breaking into God's house and cleaning out His safe – ***For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich*** (2 Corinthians 8:9).
2. Save ten-percent of your income – ***Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury*** (Luke 19:23)? It is very wise to start saving ten-percent of your earnings for emergencies and retirement. ***A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just*** (Proverbs 13:22).
3. Live on the last eighty-percent – ***And having food and raiment let us be therewith content*** (1 Timothy 6:8).

There is a difference between a tithe and an offering. The tithe is ten-percent of your gross income. God simply is testing you with your money. The first ten-percent is His and He wants to see if you will give it back to Him. An offering is money that is given above your ten-percent which will prove your love for the Father. The tithe is a command that proves your loyalty, the offering comes from your free will and proves your love for Him, ***I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love*** (2 Corinthians 8:8).

An addiction to the ministry is the absolutely best life to live. It will lead you to fully trusting God with every area of our life. When your heart is set to serve God, He sets His heart to serve you! **For**

where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Matthew 6:21). When you put your treasure (tithes and offerings) into the house of God and His work, your heart will soon follow! When your heart is set on serving God, your treasure will also follow. Only what you give will you keep in Heaven! **Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him** (Psalm 49:16, 17).

There is another end to the story, **Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness** (Ephesians 4:19). Many people have just plain given up! They like who they are and they also enjoy what they do. **Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap** (Galatians 6:7). Many will choose to continue in their sinful ways fulfilling the desires of the flesh. For these, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, has a question to ask, **For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul** (Matthew 16:26)? There is no amount of money or pleasure that can possibly compare to the riches and glory of a life with Christ. Make the choice that has the best retirement plan--Jesus

This lesson is designed to help you see the need to remove your old greedy ways and replace them with a giving spirit!

1. This lesson is designed to help you see the importance of what?
2. Money is _____ but the love of money is what?
3. Money will either make you or _____
4. What is promised at the end of Psalm 15:1-5 that makes it worth the effort to implement all of the character traits listed into your life?
5. What statement did one of the volunteers at a local workhouse make? What does this mean to you?
6. The Bible states that even nature itself teaches that a man ought to _____
7. Write 2 Peter 2:9.
8. What is the tithe?

9. What does the offering prove?

10. What will happen when you put your treasure into the house of God?

(Answers to these questions are all located within the pages of this lesson)

Regardless of what you have been told or even what you may think, God loves you enough to make you free from your destructive addictions and restore your life to the purpose in which He created you—***Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created*** (Revelation 4:11). By changing your shepherd from self to Jesus, the ***Good Shepherd***, you will begin to bring God the pleasure you were created for. God wants to use you to tell others how to receive the same freedom you now have and introduce lost souls to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. ***Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins*** (James 5: 20).

God the Father wants His children to be successful and prosperous, ***Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long*** (Psalm 35:27, 28). As you continue to trust in your new Shepherd, Jesus, He will make you prosperous so you can cheerfully, without being ashamed, tell others about His great love—you are valuable in His eyes! ***Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee*** (Psalm 51:12, 13).

Seek Knowledge

Apply the new-found Knowledge and Wisdom to your life

Then, teach others the secret to your success!

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:19).

Memory Verse:

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him (1 John 2:15).

Suggested reading:

- A chapter of Proverbs each day according to the day of the month
- Proverbs 31 – The Character of the virtuous woman

Model Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for every gift You have graciously provided. Please help me to become a giver of my time, talents and money! I understand how this can help me, but I also know how difficult it will be. Please grant me the faith to become the chosen vessel You have created me to be. In the name of Jesus, my Master and Shepherd, I pray, Amen.

Be sure to pass out at least five Gospel tracts this week and invite at least one person to come to class with you next week. Use your past to build your future!