

In God We Trust


By Caleb McAfee

There is a warning in the New Testament that reads, “Flee these things.”

It was Paul who gave this warning. Was he warning of a tsunami, a rabid dog, an infectious plague or a fire? No. He was warning of something far more treacherous. Paul said, and I paraphrase, “Run for your life from the lust for money and from those who teach that security lies in how much wealth you can horde.”

Jesus warned against the same thing. He called it. . .

Mark 4:19 (NIV)

 19 the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things. . .

The deceitfulness of money is like a psychotic disease that blinds one to eternal values. It lulls one into trusting money as his or her source of security.

Believe it or not, in America, money comes with a warning label.

The inscription “In God We Trust” first appeared on our coins nearly 150 years ago. That was a time when our nation was being torn apart by the ravages of civil war. Historical documents reveal that the inscription was a result of the many Christians who were crying out for God to heal their land.

Now, take a moment to get a bill out of your wallet or purse. Examine it. If it’s a hundred dollar bill, keep it out. We’re going to receive the offering in just a moment.

Look at the green side of the bill and you’ll see the prominent

A bit of humor
you may use if
you wish.


words In God We Trust. When you see it raise your hand.


Since the mid 1960’s every Federal Reserve note printed has these words. In a sense it’s a warning label of danger. It should say to everyone who handles it—don’t put your trust here, trust God.

If Paul, Jesus AND even money itself warns that we should run from the danger, we should take heed don’t you think? So if not money, what should we pursue?

Paul tells us. . .


1 Timothy 6:11-12 (NIV)

 11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.

The irony of it all is—if we lust for money, we can and often will self-destruct. But pursuing what is listed in verses 11 and 12 brings contentment and ultimately great gain. (See 1 Timothy 6:6 and Matthew 6:33.)

Congregational Response:

 By giving I am running from greed. My giving affirms my commitment to trust God and my expectation of great gain.

Notes