Money Traps  
1 Tim. 6:9-10

Introduction:
A. Money is more than “cash” — anything of monetary value.  
B. Money is a “must” in the world — no person or institution can function without it.  
C. Money is what we let it be — a “treat” or a “trap.”  
   1. True for all — rich or poor. (1 Tim. 6:1-10; 17-19; Prov. 30:8,9)  
   2. Given by God (v. 17) — exploited by Satan.  
D. Money traps that we often fall into:  

Discussion:
I. When We Let Money Distort Our Sense of Security.  
A. Happiness and “sense of well-being” tied to things.  
   1. Rich fool. (Lk. 12:13-21)  
   2. Laodiceans (Rev. 3:17).  
   3. Ultimately produces sorrow and greed (v. 10)  
      a. Anxiety (Matt. 6:24-34)  
      b. Greed hurts others (Mal. 3:8; Jas. 5:1-5; 1 Tim. 5:4,8,16).  
B. Must tie security to Lord and not things (1 Tim. 6:17)  
   1. Things are uncertain (Matt 6:19-20).  
   2. The Lord is certain (Phil 4:12, 13).  

II. When We Let Money Set Our Standard of Living.  
A. A standard producing a vicious cycle.  
   1. More money calls for higher standard — higher standard calls for more money.  
   2. Keeping up with the Jones’ — Catch them, they get more.  
B. A standard costing much more than money.  
   1. In time away from family — Moonlighting fathers, working mothers (Tit. 2:5).  
   2. In time away from spiritual exercise — study, prayer, classes, assemblies, visiting, etc.  
   3. In time away from needed rest (cf. Matt. 6:31)  

III. When We Let Money Corrupt Our View of Success.  
A. Spell “success” with dollar signs — $UCCE$$  
B. One can succeed or fail with much or little.  
   2. Poor successes: Jesus (Lk. 9:58), Paul (1 Cor. 4:11).  
C. Real success is preparing for eternity. (Mark 8:36).  

IV. When We Let Money Warp Our Sense of Values.  
A. Money becomes our solution for most problems and needs. (Cf. Matt. 4:4)  
B. Giving becomes a means of buying respect (cf. Matt. 6:1-4)  
C. Dollars become a substitute for deeds. (Cf. 1 Tim. 6:18)  
   1. In home: child raring, hospitality.  
   2. In community: Send check easier than going (cf. Mt. 25:42-45).  
   3. In church: Pay someone to study, teach, sing for us. (Man said talent was making money).  

Conclusion: If poor or prosperous:  
A. Be content, thankful, and trusting in God.  
B. Pray for wisdom to use what you have.  
C. Try to avoid traps associated with money.