

THE FEAR OF FINANCIAL FAILURE

Dear Friend:

Do you like Monopoly? I do. I don't get to play it anymore, but the funny thing is I haven't outgrown it. I don't like it when I lose, but when I win, boy do I like it. Call me greedy or sneaky, but I am one of those guys who likes to hide money under the board when I get really rich! Those that know me will put the rule in place when we start, "No hiding money." Playing Monopoly is fun, but letting money monopolize our thoughts and our whole life is not fun. God says it is a sin.

Not long ago over lunch, I was sitting across the table with someone I know well. We were talking about money and he told me two months ago he invested \$43,000 in BitCoin and now he has \$63,000. I said, "Don't you know that's not as secure as many stocks?" He said, "Yes, I know, it's only money and I will sell if I start losing money." I know he has probably over a million dollars in financial assets and makes more money per year as a part-time consultant than many doctors make. As we sat there and talked more, I knew he had a godly outlook on money. Later in the day I wanted to bring money up again and compliment his generosity and he said, "That's enough talk about money, let's move on."

In Luke, chapter 12, there is a parable entitled, "The Parable of the Rich Fool." You are likely familiar with it so I will spare you the details. Bottomline: the rich fool leaves God out of his financial plans. As a matter of fact, in three verses he uses the personal pronouns I, me, and my 14 times regarding the use of money. In the end God calls him a fool and takes his life. The rich fool (a farmer) thought he had a monopoly on making and storing his money but God said, "I will remind you who is ultimately in control." I hope you realize it too. Money is not the root of all evil; the love of money is the root of all evil. Be careful, the Bible is clear it is easy to fall in love with money and fall out of love with God.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayers: Pastor Alan Hicks, Belinda Lee, Clarabell Harlan, Helen Martindale, Sandra Stribick, Aaron Slone, Haiti Missionary Hostages