



# Design For Ministry™

## Depth Perception

15 November 2002

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### Change in the wind

Reading again from letters Paul wrote to Titus and Timothy, I came across passages that describe qualifications for pastors. In each letter Paul writes that pastors "***should not be lovers of money.***"

We should understand Paul as describing one end of a continuum:

Loving  
money



Ignoring  
money

In other words, not loving money does not mean pastors should move all the way across to ignoring money. Our place of residence transcends these choices.

We follow a Savior who demonstrated deep understanding of money: its power, its reach into all areas of human living, and its connection to the worth of human life. Money conversation infected his preaching in a manner all other preachers should take to heart.

We often appeal to the teachings of Paul, the first missionary, and author of a good portion of the New Testament. Paul was an exemplary fund-raiser, an entrepreneur, and every bit as committed to preaching about money as the Savior he loved (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

It does not stop there. The themes of Luke-Acts and the writing of James' epistle show that money and economy occupied a central place in Christian theology and practice. And why not, since money behavior is the place our morals, our sense of well-being and even our world-view are conveyed?

So with these examples in front of us, the vital space for the pastor, and indeed all mature Christians, is neither a love of money, nor ignorance of it. There is no quick method to arrive in this mature space. But be assured: neither silence nor procrastination appear on the list of steps to take.

***"We follow a Savior who demonstrated deep understanding of money."***

-mark

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