The Love of Money is the ROOT...

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hy would a billionaire running for office <u>want</u> to be your <u>pub-</u> <u>lic servant</u>? In fact, why are the

majority of members of all branches of government <u>wealthy</u>? Because of the <u>love of money</u>, tax money.

NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg

Why are there so many religious leaders living better than <u>Jesus did</u>,



with expensive cloths, cars, homes, and aircraft, while instructing others that "*It is more blessed to give than to receive*" (ACTS 20:35)?



The answer to <u>all</u> questions is found in the Word of God: "...godliness with CON-TENTMENT is GREAT GAIN. For we BROUGHT NOTHING into this world, and it is CERTAIN we can carry NOTH-ING OUT. And having food and raiment LET US [BELIEVERS] BE therewith CON-TENT.

"But THEY THAT WILL BE RICH fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful LUSTS, which DROWN MEN ["MEN" MEANS "HUMAN BEING" WHICH INCLUDES WOMEN TOO] in destruction and perdition.

"For the LOVE OF MONEY is the ROOT of ALL EVIL: which while some COV-ETED AFTER [TO STRETCH ONESELF; TO

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REACH OUT AFTER; TO LONG FOR], they have **ERRED** from **THE FAITH** [**TO LEAD ASTRAY; TO STRAY FROM TRUTH**], and pierced **THEMSELVES** through with many sorrows" (1 TIM. 6:6-10).

<u>Money</u> IS NOT the <u>root</u>, but the "LOVE" of money IS. More importantly, this <u>kind</u> of "LOVE" is the ROOT of ALL EVIL EVERY-WHERE.

In Noah's day, "...God saw that the WICKEDNESS OF MAN was great in the earth, and that EVERY imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only EVIL CONTINUALLY" (GENESIS 6:5), and God destroyed them all <u>except</u> Noah and his family.

Today, we are living in <u>the last days</u> before <u>the return of Christ</u>, and the <u>wickedness of man</u> is again, **GREAT** in the earth: "This **KNOW** also, that in the last



Serves as support; draws minerals and water from the surrounding soil; stores food; core; base

days **PERILOUS TIMES** shall come. **FOR MEN SHALL BE** lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded,

"lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof...ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 TIM. 3:1-9, 13).

When you consider this world's Ju\$tice \$y\$tem, the <u>ferocious greed</u> of Wall \$treet, the <u>fraud</u> of corporations, and the <u>covetousness</u> of religious organizations, it should bring to mind what Jesus said about <u>riches</u>.

Jesus said, "...<u>How</u> HARDLY [IMPOSSIBLE] shall they that have **RICHES** [WEALTH] enter into the kingdom of God...how HARD *is it for them that* **TRUST IN** *riches to enter into the kingdom of God*!" (MARK 10:23-25).

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When God brought <u>the children of Israel</u> out of Egyptian bondage, He gave them commandments at the mount through the mouth of Moses:

"Thou shalt not WREST THE JUDGMENT of thy POOR in his cause. KEEP THEE FAR from a FALSE MATTER; and the innocent and righteous SLAY THOU NOT: for I will not justify the WICKED.

And thou shalt TAKE NO GIFT [DONATION]: for the GIFT [DONATION] BLIN-DETH the wise, and PERVERTETH THE WORDS of the righteous" (EXODUS 23:6-8).

Three rich men mentioned in the gospels describe in great detail "*the deceitfulness of riches*" (MATT. 13:22). The <u>first</u> sought to inherit <u>eternal life</u>, but not at the cost of his "*great possessions*" (MATT. 19:16-26).

The <u>second</u> thought to build larger barns to store his goods for many years to come, so that he could take his "ease, eat drink, and be merry" (LUKE 12:15-21). But that same night, he died, and left his abundance to others.

The <u>third</u> "...was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day" (LUKE 16:19), While "...a certain beggar named Lazarus...laid at his gate...desiring [SETTING HIS HEART UPON] to be fed with the crumbs which fell from..." (LUKE 16:20-21) his own table.

The beggar was in trouble, and <u>needed</u> help to be fed, but was <u>disregarded</u>. When he died, and went to the paradise of God. The rich man, after his death, went to **HELL**, a place of torment, having been <u>seduced</u> by his LOVE for money.

Whether you believe in HELL or not <u>doesn't</u> change that fact that billons of souls are there today because of their LOVE for <u>treasures</u> on earth <u>rather than</u> the Word of God. For many, this could be your <u>last</u> WARNING: "LAY NOT UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES UPON EARTH...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, there will your HEART BE ALSO" (MATTHEW 6:19-21).