

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## REVELATION 17-18

In the 1920s and 30s Mae West was *the bad girl* of Hollywood. She played risqué roles, and wrote saucy scripts. One of her Broadway plays was raided by police. They arrested the actress for “[corrupting the morals of our youth.](#)” She spent ten days in a NY jail.

Someone said of the actress, “[She climbed the ladder of success, wrong by wrong.](#)” Mae once said of herself, “[I’ve been in more laps than a napkin...](#)” You could say, *Mae West became a star by being a slut.*

And in today’s chapters we find “[the Mae West of the Bible](#)” - *a biblical bad girl - a spiritual prostitute.* In verse 5 she’s given an unflattering, and disturbing name, “[Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and of the abominations of the Earth.](#)”

The infamous “[Whore of Babylon](#)” is a false religious system that rises to prominence in the last days. It’ll be in league with Satan’s one-world leader, the Antichrist.

Realize, Satan has never had an original idea. His desire is to steal worship from God, but he does so by mimicking Him. God has a Savior; *Jesus Christ*, but so does Satan, the *Antichrist*... God sends *the Holy Spirit* to draw men to the Savior; while Satan sends *the false prophet* to lure men to worship the Beast... And God is preparing the Church as a *virgin bride* for His Son Jesus; whereas, Satan’s Beast rides on a compromised religious system the Bible calls *a whore!*

One day Satan will have his own church... It reminds me of Mae West’s autobiography. It’s titled, “[Goodness had nothing to do with it.](#)” That’ll be true of this harlot.

This church may carry “*the name of God*” - have a 501C3 non-profit status - even be seen as a charitable organization. She’s a so-called “*church*” - supposedly a good thing - but she’s holding a cup full of abomination and filthiness. *Goodness has nothing to do with her.*

In the words of Mae West, the whore of Babylon will say to this world, “[Come up, and see me sometime.](#)” And sadly, the world will fall prey to her invitation.

Chapter 17 begins, “[Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls](#) (bowls brimming with God’s wrath) [came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of](#)

the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”

Throughout the Bible, God always speaks of Himself as “He” (male), and His people as “she” (female). In the OT Yahweh is the husband and Israel is His wife. In the NT Jesus is the groom and the Church is the bride of Christ... Recall in Revelation 12 the woman with a wreath of twelve stars was God’s people, Israel. And as in a marriage, God expects trust and fidelity from His people. We’re to reserve our hearts and lives and bodies for God. This is the nature of real worship.

And, **every human is a worshipper at heart.** *We all live for a reason...* for pleasure, or success, or a cause, or another person... We channel our ambitions in a particular direction. And whatever is at the end of that path is the object of our worship - *“our functional God.”*

And from God’s perspective whenever His people stray from loyalty to Him, He interprets it as “adultery” or “fornication.” To God **spiritual compromise is as sexual infidelity.** It’s a betrayal of a spouse. Don’t swap *the integrity or fidelity of your commitment to God* for a convenience, or a moment of pleasure - or in the case of this harlot, status and monetary gain.

In Revelation 19 we’ll see the faithful Bride of Christ at her marriage to the Lamb. As judgment is poured out on Earth, the Church abides with her Savior in heaven. By this point, true believers have been raptured.

I love Vance Havner’s advice to all churchgoers. He writes, *“Don’t ever come to church without coming as though it was the first time, as though it could be the best time, and as though it might be the last time.”*

**For there will be a last time!** The *true Church* will be raptured, and a *bogus Church, this harlot*, will be left to seduce the world. She’s a faith community, *but her faith is in the Beast.* She sells her soul to ride on the Beast. We’ll see later what her ride gets her...

And notice this harlot *“sits on many waters.”* In Revelation 13:1, as in other passages, the “sea” or *“many waters”* represents the vast expanse of lost humanity. This idea also gets reiterated in verse 15.

Apparently, this harlot will have a global appeal. She’ll morph into **the world’s religion.** Here’s the Church of the Antichrist. This is the last days church: *the church after the real Christian church is raptured.*

Current statistics show that Christianity in modern America is in a state of decline, especially among 20-somethings... *But that doesn't mean people today are becoming less spiritual. Spirituality is on an upswing!*

Once, I sat on a plane next to a lady who described herself as “a cafeteria Catholic.” In other words, she picks and chooses aspects of her faith that suits her tastes. What offends her, she leaves off her plate.

And this is what's happening among Christians in general. People are rejecting the restraints of orthodox Christianity to concoct their own “designer religions.”

In a 2020 poll conducted by LifeWay Research it was found that 56% of American evangelicals now believe God accepts the worship of all religions. This means more than half of all Christians deny the exclusivity of Christ. Like a harlot, today's Christians have sold out their Savior for the acceptance and favor of this world.

Realize when the true Church gets raptured, there will be churches that will continue their normal operations. It'll be *Sunday as usual* in a lot of churches.

Not everyone who professes Christ is a genuine Christian. In Matthew 7 Jesus warns us, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven...” It'll be shocking, how much of Christendom will be left behind after the true believers are raptured. *Liberal theologians - appeasing pastors - compromised and gullible church members* will still come to church.

Once the rapture occurs and all the narrow-minded fundamentalists who took the Bible literally are out of the way - it'll be easy for the new progressive leaders to further justify compromises of our faith. Biblical Christianity will be gutted of its imperatives, and blended with other religious ideas. *The whore of Babylon will be an all-roads-lead-to-God movement.*

This is the warning in 1 Timothy 4:1, “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.” And the whore of Babylon will be the chief perpetrator. Here's the ultimate triumph of tolerance and syncretism. Somehow she'll lull pseudo-Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, New-agers - everyone into one ecumenical bed of belief.

If the whore of Babylon has a church bus it'll sport one of those “Coexist” stickers on the bumper.

In Revelation 2:22, in His letter to the Church of Thyatira, Jesus warned that He would cast those “who committed adultery... into great tribulation unless they repent.” I believe fake Christians of both Catholic and Protestant tradition will help make up this awful harlot.

John tells us in verse 3, “So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.”

Revelation 13 identifies this blasphemous Beast as the Antichrist - *a Future Fuhrer, the satanic Savior*. This harlot rises to prominence on the back of this Beast.

Like the Christian churches in Germany who early on supported Hitler and the Nazis, the church in the Great Tribulation will sell her soul for a ride on the Beast.

This false-church will supply the Antichrist with religious sanction. In return, he'll catapult her to worldly power and prestige. *It'll be a marriage made in Hell.*

Verse 4, “The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.”

Realize, this harlot is no streetwalker. She's a high priced call girl. She's decked out. Her seductions and compromises have gained her a privileged status.

And she's clearly identified, verse 5 reports, “And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

Just as God has a headquarters on Earth - *the city of Jerusalem*. Satan likewise has his mission control. People think Satan's headquarters is Hell. As if today he and his demons are huddle in a corner of the flames of Hell mapping out their strategies. That couldn't be further from the truth. Hell is the last place Satan wants to be. His headquarters is on Earth. It's called *Babylon*.

Genesis 11 identifies Babel as the site of the first Satanic coup d'that - *the first global revolt against God*.

“Nimrod” - a man who's name means “we will rebel” - rallied the tribes of man against God. He convinced them that even though God promised to never flood the Earth again, God couldn't be trusted. “Be afraid of God. Trust Nimrod” was his campaign slogan. *And it worked!* At Babel they built a waterproof tower in the desert... *If God tried another flood, they'd be ready.*

Of course, along with this brazen rebellion Nimrod created his own religion. *He built a tower to reach God*. Through their own efforts mankind would ascend to God's place. His followers would be as wise as God. Nimrod promised enlightenment, and self-deification.

And this is Satan's promise today. *Be your own god. Humans are basically good. Look for the god within.*

Religion still tries to build a tower to God. Different religions have different rules or building codes, but all religions - *other than Christianity* - are about erecting a way for man, through his good works, to climb and get to God on his own... **It all traces back to Babylon!**

This is why the harlot of the last days is called "*the mother of harlots and abominations*." She's the source. And in the end, all her chicks will come home to roost. All the variants of Nimrod's lie will return to mama.

Verse 6 is the telling passage. John writes, "*I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus...*" Here's the creed of this religious harlot... "**Believe in anything, but Jesus!**" Everything is tolerated except faith in Christ. And her opposition will turn violent. There's blood on her hands.

Given current attitudes this may be the one prophesy in Revelation that's easiest to believe. Today, "*Jesus*" is where the world takes offense. Talk about God, and folks applaud - but say, "*Jesus*" and they'll try to shut you up. Jesus is, and will be, the line of demarcation between real Christianity and this harlot's bogus brand.

John continues in verse 6, "*And when I saw her (this mother of harlots), I marveled with great amazement. But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns."* *And what follows is the angel's explanation...*

"*The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition.*" Note, his origin and destiny is perdition, or hellfire.

"*And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.*" The rise of this Beast will be a source of astonishment to people on the Earth.

"*Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.*"

And almost universally in the writings of antiquity, "**the city on seven hills**" was a synonym for Rome. Note verse 18 also identifies this city as "*that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.*" And in John's day, the Emperors ruled from the capitol city of Rome.

This means in the last days, this harlot sitting on the Beast, will be a religious system based in Rome.

In Revelation 13 we drew a connection between Rome and this last days Beast. Daniel 9, as well as other passages, inform us Antichrist will lead a revived Roman empire. In John's day, Rome dominated the world - it *"was."* That's before it fractured into various kingdoms - so for a time it *"is not."* Now today, we see a resurgence of nations that make up ancient Rome. The European Union is the new Rome that *"yet is."*

And do you know the favorite symbol of the EU, the European Union? *It's a woman riding on a Beast.*

You'll find it on *a German phone card...*

Or *on the back of a 2 Euro coin...*

Or *in a Time Magazine graphic for a United Europe...*

Or *the sculpture outside the European Parliament...*

Or *on two European postage stamps...*

Or *on a German magazine cover...*

You'll find it everywhere. *Even in the 2015 Super Bowl halftime Katy Perry was a woman riding on the beast.* The world is being prepped to accept the last days harlot of Revelation 17. Her *home* will be *Rome*.

*And of course, what worldwide religious system is headquartered today in Rome? The Roman Catholic Church.* This is the observation that has led many people to connect this harlot with Roman Catholicism.

What makes this even more provocative is that over the centuries Roman Catholic religion has integrated many pagan and Babylonian practices into its tradition.

The Pope's title *"Pontiff Maximus"* or *"High Priest"* was a name taken from the Babylonian priesthood. Practices like the use of icons, the celibacy of priests and nuns, purgatory, lent, holy water, the mass, the veneration of Mary, salvation by sacrament... can all be traced to Babylonian paganism - not the Bible!

*Yet, do I believe the religious harlot of Revelation 17 is exclusively the Roman Catholic Church? No!* I think the whore of Babylon will be much broader than any one church or religion. It'll be the amalgamation of all religions into a global religion - that will be used by the Antichrist to seduce the world into worshipping him.

Verse 10 tells us, *"There are also seven kings."* Not only are the seven heads seven hills, they also represent seven kings. *"Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come."* Five world-spanning empires preceded the first century and John's writing of Revelation: *Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece.* The world empire that existed at the time was *Rome*.

And since Rome many men have tried to rule the world, Atilla the Hun, Charlemagne, Genghis Khan, Napoleon Bonaparte, Adolf Hitler, Josef Stalin - yet none were able. But there is one more world empire yet to come. John writes **“And when he comes, he must continue a short time.”** When the Antichrist unifies a fractured world under the auspices of a new Rome, his reign will be brief. Daniel 9 tells us it'll last seven years, a short time compared to the previous six empires.

Verse 11, **“And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.”** The seventh beast is a revival of Rome, and the eighth is its leader - the Antichrist himself. And both are bound for hell or **“perdition.”**

**“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.”** The Antichrist will establish ten provinces. He'll appoint subordinates to help him. *But they won't reign long!* Don't waste your time looking at today's political landscape for this configuration. This happens at the end, and these kings don't last long - just *a single hour*.

Verse 13, **“These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.”** These ten kings will drink the Kool-Aid. They sell their soul to the Beast. And they're used to catapult him to political power.

*Yet talk about hitching your wagon to the wrong horse.* They find themselves in a fearful position...

Verse 14, **“These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”** The Beast and his ten buddies are Jesus' foe at the Battle of Armageddon.

God put down Nimrod and the first Babylonian revolt by confusing the languages and dispersing the people. But He'll destroy the final Babylon by gathering the nations together in the Plain of Meggido to **“make war with the Lamb.”** We'll read of that battle next week...

**“Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.”** The harlot will cast a worldwide web.

Verse 16, **“And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.”** Irony of ironies, in the end the Beast and his buddies will turn on the harlot. *After they use her up, they'll spit her out.*

The fake-Church, *left on Earth after the rapture*, the pseudo-Christian Church that ceased being Christian to appease the world and avoid persecution, *where did their compromise get them? Naked, eaten, burned...*

*Here's the possible progression... For the first half of the final seven years the Antichrist is hailed as a man of peace. Jews and Muslims get along. The false prophet and the religious harlot spread the message... all roads lead to God... everyone can just co-exist...*

But at the midpoint, the Antichrist reveals his true colors. He defiles the Temple in Jerusalem and claims to be God. The harlot is no longer needed. From now on the only religion allowed is the worship of the Beast.

And to secure that worship the Antichrist blackmails the world. To participate in his commercial system it takes his mark in your right hand or forehead - the # 666. Those who refuse, either *starve* or are *martyred*.

Verse 17, "For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth." In John's day the only city to fit that description was Rome. Thus, in the last days there has to be a revival of the empire.

Today, *geographically*, Rome is synonymous with Europe, but *spiritually* she's an offspring of idolatrous Babel. This is why 17:5 calls her church, "Babylon."

Chapter 17 speaks of this **religious Babylon**, while Chapter 18 focuses on a **commercial Babylon**. And last days Rome will include both a *world religion* and a *world economy*. For religion is a matter of the heart, *but where your treasure is there your heart will be also*. Thus, Satan controls commerce... *to capture hearts*.

Chapter 18 begins, "After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!

For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury." Remember, Babylon is **Satan Central**. It **was never just a city, but a system**. It's a trap the devil uses to deceive and manipulate. Satan seduces the world through *religion* and *riches*. Babel is about both.

Here we're told its Babylon's wealth that entices the world to worship at the altar of the Antichrist. The nations drink her spiritual fornication to become rich.



And for any student of human nature and world history it's no surprise that nations are willing to sell out *principle* for *profit*... Give people more entitlements, new jobs, lower interest rates, peace and prosperity - and they'll overlook a sinister spiritual agenda.

The Antichrist will usher in an age of opulence, and the nations will sell their soul for a piece of the pie.

And I hope we haven't been seduced by the spirit of Antichrist ourselves. How willing are we to trade *godliness* for *monetary gain*? Or compromise *spiritually* to get ahead *financially*? It's alarming the moral concessions people make for one more lousy dollar. Let's make sure we're free from **the love of money**.

Recall Jesus' words in Matthew 6, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." If forced to make a difficult choice... *would you choose devotion to God or the luxuries of this life?*

Verse 4, "And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues." Just as God called the righteous out of Sodom before judgment came down - here he warns the world of the pending destruction of Babylon. A gracious God is offering the world a chance to repent of its materialism.

"For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities." God has scrutinized Babylon's books. He's noted her every transaction. *Every workplace injustice - every employee who was abused - every sweat shop - every time the currency was manipulated for someone's financial advantage...*

**Every time profit took precedent over people...** God took note, and now He says, "Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her." Babylon bellies up to the bar, and God orders her a double shot of His wrath!

Then Heaven adds, "In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow..." The rich who made a fortune off the backs of neglected workers - *beware!* You'll be treated as you've treated others.

This is what *heaven is saying*, but here's what *Babylon is thinking*, "For she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' She's still smug and secure. Babylon feels invincible.

"Therefore her plagues will come in one day - death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her." Wow! The commercial titans of this world will be judged "*in one day*" - suddenly and

comprehensively! Imagine, in 24 hours global commercial centers are “*utterly burned with fire,*” crippling the world’s economy.

Verse 9, “The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment...” So why are kings standing at a distance? Could it be they’re afraid of the radiation fallout?

They’re “saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’” How can a huge metropolis be burned to a crisp in one hour? It might involve nuclear explosions.

“And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.” Notice, John says the world in the last days will be trading not just in jewelry, clothing, industrials, and perishables, but in the “*bodies and souls of men.*”

Today, millions of people are trapped in some form of slavery - from sweat shops to the sex trade. Human trafficking is a modern-day plague. We should support those who are shining God’s light into that dark world.

Verse 14, “The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.” It’s a good reminder to everyone that material stuff - *our house, our car, the antique furniture, the baseball card collection* - will all be gone one day! I hope we’re all investing in things that will last forever.

“The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.’

Here today, gone... “*in one hour!*” A world that’s lived for money and trusted in wealth now loses everything!

Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What is like this great city?’” Destruction occurs in one hour. Onlookers remain at a distance. *Again, are they afraid of the fallout of a nuclear blast?*

Here it's obvious, a specific city is in view... The Bible calls it "**Babylon**," but as we've said Babylon is not just a city, but a system. Could this city actually be *Rome*? Or *New York*? Or is it the center of Arab wealth, *Dubai*?

Or is it literally *Babylon*?... Saddam Hussein started to rebuild ancient Babylon before the Iraq Wars. US troops used it as a base camp. Today, Babylon is a fledgling tourist attraction. Perhaps one day the city of Babylon will be rebuilt. With its strategic Middle East location and oil reserves it could rise from the ashes.

But whether what we see here is a *city* or a *system*, Babylon will be known, **not for its rise, but for its fall**. What's predicted in 14:8 by the angel who canvassed the globe is fulfilled here, the great city, "**Babylon is fallen**." The world's wealth will come to ruin. Global financial markets will collapse. **Babel goes bankrupt**.

And "**They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.'**

**And while Earth mourns, Heaven celebrates.** Verse 20, "**Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!**"

The Beast and Babylon had collaborated. To buy or sell you needed a mark. And to get that mark you had to bow. Here, the Babel that persecuted God's people gets her retribution. She suffers what she dished out.

Verse 21, "**Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea...**" A millstone was an ancient symbol of commerce and business. And here the millstone is thrown into the sea... God is tired of man's greed. **Greed is not good!** Greed is sin.

If capitalism means investing to grow business, and create jobs, and provide goods and services for the betterment of society; *then God is for it!*... But if capitalism is rich people exploiting workers and padding their pockets off the backs of the poor; *then God is against it!*... One day God will throw all of the world's systems of greed into the sea like a millstone.

And the angel said, "**Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore.**" Business, the arts, even life in general will be interrupted by God's judgment!

Verse 23, “For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.” What an indictment! The merchants of the world - big business - is accused of *the sin of sorcery*.

When does an advertiser go beyond truthfulness and engage in manipulation? Is it moral to advertise alcohol or gambling, without warning of addiction? Or using marketing that targets children? Or for a social media company to censor content? *And we all know sex sells*, but does it make it right? “*Sorcery*” is *evil advertising or manipulation* that will one day be judged by God.

I graduated from Georgia State with a degree in business, but they never told me God will scrutinize and judge all our business and marketing practices. Don’t tell God “*to mind Your own business.*” The world will discover His authority extends to all our business.

Whenever wrongdoing gets investigated someone will say, “*Follow the money.*” So much of the evil in our world is motivated by greed. This is what happens in the last days. *God’s judgment will follow the money.*

Finally, verse 24, “*And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.*” This was true of ancient Rome. The Colosseum was the site of Christian persecution and martyrdom. But the Rome of the last days will be similarly guilty.

And all this sets up the final showdown in Revelation 19. Christ and Antichrist will square off for a final battle.

In closing, **if I followed the money** in your life, where would it take me - what would I ultimately find... *a greedy heart, or a heart intent on pleasing God?*

Always remember our true priorities are most quickly revealed by our attitude toward money. Let’s bow all of our lives, including our wealth, to the living Lord Jesus.