

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Red Bud, Illinois**

Adult Bible Class

*Popular Proverbial Phrases Inspired by Bible Passages*

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:11-13 “When God Closes a Door, He Opens a Window”

<sup>11</sup>Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup>Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Verse 11: “these things”- In the previous verses Paul has used examples of Israelite bad behavior during their exodus wandering (idolatry, sexual immorality, testing of God, grumbling). **Why does Paul say these things “were written down”?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does Paul describe us (“our”)?** \_\_\_\_\_ **How so?** \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 12: **What kind of “standing” and “falling” does Paul mean?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How might we think that we “stand” spiritually speaking?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How might we then “fall”?** \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 13: **What are temptations?** \_\_\_\_\_ **Is anyone immune from them?**

**To what is God faithful?** \_\_\_\_\_ **What is His promise here?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What does Paul not say that God will do?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What does Paul say that God will do?** \_\_\_\_\_ (6<sup>th</sup> Petition of LP)

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:6-8 “God Loves a Cheerful Giver”

<sup>6</sup>The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

Verse 6: **What familiar image or setting of life is Paul using here?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What will happen to a fall harvest when only half the amount of seed is sown in the spring?**

In whatever endeavor of our lives we cannot expect to get a full result from half-hearted effort.

Verse 7: **Paul is speaking of financial giving. Is it optional for us?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Upon what are we to base our giving?** \_\_\_\_\_

“reluctantly”- hesitancy from within; why? “under compulsion” pressure from without; how?

Verse 8: **What here is able to make us the “cheerful giver” of verse 7?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why is there no risk for us in our cheerful giving?** \_\_\_\_\_

Notice Paul’s repetition of the words “all” and “abound.” God will not allow us to go without when we are cheerfully giving, but even provide us enough to do His good works for others.

“Sufficiency” translates the Greek word that literally means “self-rule.” It was used in the Greek philosophy of Stoicism to rely on one’s inner resources. Here Paul uses it for Christians who rely on God’s gifts.

*Proverbs 22:9 Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.*

1st Timothy 6:6-10 “Money Is the Root of All Evil”

<sup>6</sup>But godliness with contentment is great gain, <sup>7</sup>for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. <sup>8</sup>But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. <sup>9</sup>But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

Verse 6: **Where do we find “great gain”?** \_\_\_\_\_ **&** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is godliness?** \_\_\_\_\_ **What is contentment?** \_\_\_\_\_

This translates the same Greek word as “sufficiency” in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:8.

Verse 7: **While there are no armored cars in funeral processions, how do people still try “to take it with them”?** \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 8: **What does Paul say are the necessities of life?** \_\_\_\_\_ **&** \_\_\_\_\_

**What might we say are missing?** \_\_\_\_\_

(think of Martin Luther’s explanation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Petition of the Lord’s Prayer)

Verse 9: **Who were the faithful and rich people in the Bible?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the difference between the “desire to be rich” and being rich?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What temptations come from that desire?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What “snare, ruin and destruction” result from the harmful desires to be rich?**

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Verse 10 is perhaps one of the most misquoted verses in the Bible. **Is money good or bad?**

**What word does Paul use to describe the love of money?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What has this love caused some to have done?** \_\_\_\_\_

**In doing so, what have they done to themselves?** \_\_\_\_\_

Give us Your grace, dear Lord, rightly to regard the wealth that we call our own, that it might not then be a curse in our lives, but Your wonderful blessing. In Jesus’ name. Amen.