

What Jesus Said About...

Materialism

(1 Timothy 6:6-19)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. from “Finding Nemo.”
 2. The “mine, mine, mine” attitude is more than a “laugh-line” in a movie but is a real problem for mankind.
 3. It starts young – Ills. teaching children to share.
 4. Materialism is an epidemic in our culture, and most who have it, don’t know it, and it will keep one out of heaven.
 5. Therefore, let us give our ears and hearts to God’s counsel.

I. What Is Materialism?

- A. Materialism is a preoccupation with or emphasis on material objects and comforts with a disinterest or rejection of spiritual concerns and values.
- B. Paul described materialism when he spoke of those who worshiped and served the creature rather than the creator (Romans 1:25).
- C. What materialism does is it replaces God on the throne of our heart with a desire and pursuit of money and possessions.

II. Identifying Materialism from 1 Timothy 6

- A. Instructions to Those Who Would Be Rich (1 Timothy 5:5-16).
 1. Godliness as a Way of Gain (1 Timothy 6:5-8).
 - a. Without contentment (6:5).
 - b. With contentment (6:6-8).
 2. An Issue of the Heart (1 Timothy 6:9-10).
 - a. Desires (6:9).
 - 1) Prosperity and materialism are not the same thing.
 - 2) You don’t have to be rich to be materialistic.
 - a) (Joshua 7:10-26) Achan.
 - b) (2 Kings 5:20-27) Gehazi.
 - 3) You can also be rich and not be materialistic.
 - a) (Job 1:1-5) Job.
 - b) (Genesis 41:39-43) Joseph.
 - b. Love (6:10).
 - 1) Causes them to stray from the faith (6:10).
 - 2) (1 Corinthians 5:11) Covetous.
 3. Focus on Spiritual Things (1 Timothy 6:11-16).
 - a. Flee (6:11).
 - b. Pursue (6:11).
 - c. Fight (6:12).
 - d. Lay hold on (6:12).

- B. Instructions to Those Who Are Rich (1 Timothy 6:17-19).
 - 1. Don't Be Haughty (1 Timothy 6:17).
 - 2. Don't Trust in Riches (1 Timothy 6:17).
 - 3. Do Good (1 Timothy 6:18-19).

III. Identifying a Materialist

- A. From this chapter, we can identify whether we are materialistic.
- B. Any one of these signs demand correction in our lives.
 - 1. We use godliness as a way of gain.
 - 2. We aren't content.
 - 3. Our desires are material, not spiritual.
 - 4. Our love is material, not spiritual.
 - 5. We feed our materialistic itches.
 - 6. Our life's pursuit deals with materialistic things, not spiritual.
 - 7. We are haughty because of what we have.
 - 8. We trust in our riches and not in God.
 - 9. We don't do good with our riches.

- Conclusion:
- 1. Materialism and the greed and covetousness that accompany it is a "heaven or hell" issue (1 Timothy 5:5,9,10; 1 Corinthians 5:11).
 - 2. Make sure you have a grip on things rather than things having a grip on you.