

Weights and the World

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Life often reminds us that we are not in control.
 - 1. Breakdowns, bad luck, and bills arise from nowhere.
 - 2. The government arbitrarily changes the laws, and our culture randomly changes the rules.
 - 3. Sickesses and sorrows come at times when we are covered up with too many responsibilities.
 - 4. Family and friends we dearly love make demands on our already stressed and thinly stretched attention and resources.
- B. Before we realize it, the day is over, the month is past, and we are looking a just a few more years of strength and independence.
 - 1. We've been busy rushing here and there helping with this and that, feeling all the while that we are accomplishing nothing.
 - 2. All of the squeaky wheels in our lives were greased, but our important goals were not met and our dreams were not realized.
 - 3. We are worn out, and yet unfulfilled by our efforts. We have invested ourselves and given all that we have, and have nothing to show for it
- C. This is how the Adversary keeps people out of Heaven. They commit themselves to Christ and begin their journey determined to serve Him, but are distracted along the way by the demands of life in this fallen world.
 - 1. Heb. 12:1-4

I. WEIGHTS OR SINS?

- A. I believe more Christians will be lost because they are sidetracked by weights than by succumbing to sin.
 - 1. The Adversary is gifted at causing people to leave the Lord. He does not waste effort attacking our strength.
 - 2. A body in motion tends to stay in motion; it is hard to stop, but much easier to divert.
- B. Many Christians who leave the Lord, do so without realizing it is happening.
 - 1. They become so preoccupied with neutral material matters that they gradually allow them to crowd out their service to God.
 - 2. We live in a world filled with distractions.
- C. Heb. 12:1 - Weights are not necessarily sins
 - 1. "Christians, professing to go to heaven, must throw aside everything that might hinder them in their Christian race. Whatever weighs down our hearts or affections to earth and sense is to be carefully avoided; for no man, with the love of the world in his heart, can ever reach the kingdom of heaven." (Adam Clarke Commentary on Hebrews)
 - 2. Incrementally, the Adversary slows our progress in the race, but tempting us with the natural inclination to improve our life under the sun. We gradually begin shifting our efforts and resources to improve our lives in this world, while slowing reducing the amount we use for our lives in the world to come.

3. Weights are things that are morally neutral, but when emphasized at a level equal to or greater than things that are morally good, they become weights that hinder our pursuit of a home in heaven
- D. 1Peter 1:13; Luke 21:34-36

II. LAY ASIDE YOUR WEIGHTS OR YOUR HOME IN HEAVEN?

- A. Heaven and this world are not the same place or even on the same road. One must turn his back on the world if he is to face toward Heaven.
 1. He must choose one or the other - Matt. 6:19-34
- B. It becomes a question about whom we trust. Do we trust God to care for our physical needs or would we rather trust ourselves?
 1. Isa. 30:8-16; Rom. 8:4-8; Phil. 3:18-20

III. LAY ASIDE YOUR WEIGHTS

- A. The Christian must be prepared to make a clean break with the things of this world, if those things are interfering with his race toward heaven.
- B. When the Bible speaks of "the world" it refers to more than just sin. The world is the physical realm in which we live.
 1. 2Cor. 4:17-18
- C. Loving the world does not refer to just loving sin - 1John 2:15
 1. 2Tim. 4:10 - To love this world is to place a high value on earthly life.
 2. 1Tim. 6:6-8 - To love this world is to place a high value on earthly things
- D. When one becomes a Christian, he is a new creature. He trades up, exchanging his old life for new life in Jesus.
 1. 2Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:4, 12:2; Col. 3:1; 2Peter 3:13; Phil. 3:20; 1Peter 1:3

Conclusion:

- A. Our challenge as Christians is to become something noticeably different from people who have chosen the world - Eph. 4:20-24; Acts 4:32
 1. We are not living for the now, but for eternity. We give the first fruits of our strength and resources for our home in heaven, not for our things on earth - Matt. 6:19-20