

WHAT'S HURTING US RIGHT NOW?
MATERIALISM

Ecclesiastes 2:4-12

I ENLARGED MY WORKS: I BUILT HOUSES FOR MYSELF, I PLANTED VINEYARDS FOR MYSELF; I MADE GARDENS AND PARKS FOR MYSELF AND I PLANTED IN THEM ALL KINDS OF FRUIT TREES; I MADE PONDS OF WATER FOR MYSELF FROM WHICH TO IRRIGATE A FOREST OF GROWING TREES. I BOUGHT MALE AND FEMALE SLAVES AND I HAD HOME BORN SLAVES. ALSO I POSSESSED FLOCKS AND HERDS LARGER THAN ALL WHO PRECEDED ME IN JERUSALEM. ALSO, I COLLECTED FOR MYSELF SILVER AND GOLD AND THE TREASURE OF KINGS AND PROVINCES. I PROVIDED FOR MYSELF MALE AND FEMALE SINGERS AND THE PLEASURES OF MEN—MANY CONCUBINES. THEN I BECAME GREAT AND INCREASED MORE THAN ALL WHO PRECEDED ME IN JERUSALEM. MY WISDOM ALSO STOOD BY ME. ALL THAT MY EYES DESIRED I DID NOT REFUSE THEM. I DID NOT WITHHOLD MY HEART FROM ANY PLEASURE, FOR MY HEART WAS PLEASED BECAUSE OF ALL MY LABOR AND THIS WAS MY REWARD FOR ALL MY LABOR. THUS I CONSIDERED ALL MY ACTIVITIES WHICH MY HANDS HAD DONE AND THE LABOR WHICH I HAD EXERTED, AND BEHOLD ALL WAS VANITY AND STRIVING AFTER WIND AND THERE WAS NO PROFIT UNDER THE SUN.

WHAT IS MATERIALISM?

- 1) a theory that physical matter is the only or fundamental reality and that all being and processes and phenomena can be explained as manifestations or results of matter...***
- 2) a preoccupation with or stress upon material rather than intellectual or spiritual things.”***

(Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary)

WHAT IS MATERIALISM?

“a preoccupation with or stress upon material rather than intellectual or spiritual things.” (Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary)

- Matthew 6:24 *“You cannot serve God and mammon.”*
- Luke 8:14 *“cares, riches and pleasures of life”*
- 1 Tim 6:9-10 *The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.*
- Colossians 3:5 *covetousness, which is idolatry.*
- Luke 12:13-15 *Rich fool identified with covetousness and materialism.*

“THINGS” ARE NOT WRONG WITHIN THEMSELVES...

“Every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.” – 1 Timothy 4:4

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning” – James 1:17

THE KEY TO REMEMBERING THE ABOVE IS...

- Matthew 6:33 – **seek first the kingdom of God**
- Matthew 16:26 – **what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world...?**

UNDERSTANDING WEALTH AND POVERTY

“give me neither wealth nor poverty. Feed me with the food that is my portion...” – Proverbs 30:8

“Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?” – James 2:5

**“There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.”
– Proverbs 13:7**

“Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.” – Proverbs 19:1

UNDERSTANDING WEALTH AND POVERTY

“give me neither wealth nor poverty. Feed me with the food that is my portion...” – Proverbs 30:8

“Better a handful with quietness than both hands full, together with toil and grasping for the wind” – Ecclesiastes 4:6

“The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eats little or much; But the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep.” – Ecclesiastes 5:12

UNDERSTANDING WEALTH AND POVERTY

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WITH WEALTH COMES RESPONSIBILITIES...

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” – Matthew 19:23-24

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WITH WEALTH COMES RESPONSIBILITIES...

“Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

– 1 Timothy 6:17-19

ATTITUDES THAT LEAD TO MATERIALISM

- **Discontentment** – *Prov. 27:20*
- **Selfishness** – *2 Timothy 3:1-5*
- **Covetousness** – *Judges 7:21*
- **Lack of Self-Control** – *Ga. 5:23; 2 Peter 1:6*
- **Addiction to “things”** – *1 John 2:16; 1 Cor. 10:13; Jam. 4:7*

HOW DOES MATERIALISM AFFECT US?

- **It Affects Our Character**
- **It Affects Our Families**
- **It Affects The Church**

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT MATERIALISM?

- **Examine Ourselves** – *2 Corinthians 13:5*
- **Repent** – *2 Corinthians 7:10*
- **(Re)Focus Our Lives** – *Colossians 3:2*
- **Learn Contentment** – *Philippians 4:11*
- **Conscious Effort In Pursuing Godly Things** – *Phil. 4:8*
- **Pray For Wisdom and Strength** – *1 John 4:4*

