

Materialism

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Luke 12:15-21

1. **Materialism defined: The tendency to give undue importance to material interests (Webster).**
2. **We have been warned by the Lord about materialism over and over.**
 - A. **Luke 12:15-21 (Our scripture reading)**

Matthew 6:24 "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.**

- B. **The church at Laodicea**
Revelation 3:14-19
- C. **Ananias and Sapphira**
Acts 5:1-11
- D. **In the days of Lot**

Luke 17:28 Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;

Ezekiel 16:49 Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

E. In the parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

3. Paul gave warnings as he wrote about materialism.

A. To the saints at Colossae

Colossians 3:1-2 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. (2) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

B. To the church at Philippi

Philippians 3:18-19 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: (19) whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

C. To Timothy

1 Timothy 6:6-11, 17-19

- 4. One of the great problems we have in the church today is materialism (Matthew 6:24)**
- 5. In the lesson this morning, let us see what the New Testament says about materialism, and then see how it is affecting the church today.**

Jesus Stressed the Spiritual Above the Material

1. He taught we are to “seek first the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 6:33)

2. He taught that the soul is more valuable than the whole world

Matthew 16:26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

3. He taught us not to fear them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul (Matthew 10:28)

A. Showing the importance of the soul above anything else.

4. He taught that His kingdom is not of this world.

John 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

5. Jesus warned about engaging in giving, praying, and fasting – to have the glory of men for one’s reward.

A. Giving – Matthew 6:1-4

B. Praying – Matthew 6:5-6

C. Fasting – Matthew 6:16-18

6. Jesus tells us to lay up “treasures in heaven, NOT upon the earth”

Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; (20) but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (21) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

7. **Jesus used the rich young ruler to teach us that men would love the material more than the eternal – and that is truly sad!**

Mark 10:17-27

8. **Jesus used the rich man and Lazarus to teach us the proper use of material things.**

Luke 16:19-31

The One That Serves the Material – Transfers to Riches What Belongs to God

1. **We are to love God with all of our being.**

Mark 12:30

2. **We are to seek His Kingdom first.**

Matthew 6:33

3. **We are to trust in God.**

Psalms 31:1 **In You, O LORD, I put my trust;** Let me never be ashamed;
Deliver me in Your righteousness.

4. **We are to rejoice in the Lord.**

Philippians 4:4

5. **We are to labor in the work of the Lord.**

1 Corinthians 15:58

6. **Our entire devotion is to be to God.**

Matthew 6:24 "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.

7. The server of “mammon” is an idolater

Colossians 3:5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and **covetousness, which is idolatry.**

The Service of Mammon (the material) Has Weakened the Church

- 1. Many may have sacrificed our children for “THINGS.”**
 - A. The workaholic Father has given his children “mammon”, but has not given them what is really important – himself, the Lord, and their salvation.**
 - B. The working Mother has given her family more THINGS and STUFF – but she has robbed them of the important things – herself, proper teaching, and security.**
- 2. We may have sacrificed the Salvation of our Neighbors for more things.**
 - A. We don’t take the time to visit and teach others.**
- 3. We may have sacrificed the Work of the Church:**
 - A. Many do not have the time for it – serving mammon and having a good time with our possessions.**
 - B. When not working our jobs, we may often go somewhere and spend our time doing other things.**
 - C. Most people are too busy with mammon to teach because they “just don’t have the time.”**

4. We may have sacrificed our association with our brethren:

A. No time to be with one another.

Acts 2:46-47 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, (47) praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Conclusion

1. So, what is the answer to the problem of materialism?

2. We need to learn what Jesus said:

Luke 12:15 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

3. We must learn to be rich toward God (Luke 12:21).

A. This is done by making sure we are laying up treasure in heaven.

Matthew 6:20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

4. We must learn to Trust in God (Matthew 6:25-34).

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."

5. By making sure we seek the Kingdom of God FIRST and FOREMOST. Matthew 6:33

