

The Problem of Materialism

In our study of "Blurry Vision," the subject of materialism is something that catches many of us. Living in the world but not being a part of the world is hard. Every birthday, every Christmas, and when we do some Spring cleaning we realize how much stuff we have.

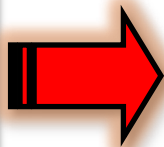
A. The World is blinded by materialism

- The more the better is the concept
- Notice the shows that reflect this:
Who wants to be a Millionaire
- Success is defined by how much and how expensive things are
- Money talks. The annual salary of actors, professional athletes are more than many of us will ever make in a lifetime
- Happiness is connected with wealth



The Issue At Hand

- The problem is not how much you have, but what _____ you have. The love of money passage (1 Tim 6:9) is directed towards those who want to be rich
- Materialism is an a_____. I believe I am someone special because I have something you don't
- Greed, jealousy, envy and arrogance live on the same street with materialism
- This spirit has driven many to be poor stewards, amass a mountain of debt, and become selfish in order to impress people they do not even like
 - average credit card: \$5700
 - 41% could not cover an emergency of \$1,000
- It's hard to be content (Heb 13:5) with a attitude of materialism



How This Impacts The Church

1. The materialistic person will put making money _____ all things
2. The materialistic person is a lousy giver
3. The materialistic person does not seek the kingdom _____
4. The materialistic person is more concerned about _____ than substance, character and heart
5. Unless current saving trends change, many are putting themselves in the position to be future benevolent cases
6. It _____ our soul and relationship with God (Mt 6:24; Mk 10:24-25; Lk 8:14)

Wealth is one of the themes in the Gospel of Luke

The word "money" is used 12x. The word "rich" is used 16x. It is here we find:

- Rich man and Lazarus (Ch 16)
- Prodigal son (Ch 15)
- Parable of rich farmer (Ch 12)
- Rich young ruler (Ch 18)
- Zacchaeus (Ch 19)
- Man wanted Jesus to divide inheritance (Ch 12)

"Average in America, is overweight and broke" - Dave Ramsey

Principles From God's Word

- Lk 12:15 Life does not _____ of possessions
- Mt 16:26 What good is it if you have it all and you _____ your soul
- Prov 11:28 He who _____ in riches will fall
- Prov 15:16 Better is a _____ with the fear of the Lord, than great treasure and turmoil with it
- Prov 23:4-5 Do not _____ yourself to gain wealth, cease from your _____ of it. When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings, like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.
- Ecc 5:10 He who loves money will not be _____ with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity.
- Ecc 5:12 The full stomach of the rich man does not _____ him to sleep
- Lk 10:41 Martha, you are _____ and _____ about so many things
- 1 Tim 6:6 But godliness actually is a means of great _____, when accompanied by contentment
- 1 Tim 6:7 We brought nothing into the world, so we cannot _____ anything _____ of it either
- 1 Tim 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have _____ from the faith, and pierced themselves with any a pang

1. Money _____ is not always better
2. Money doesn't buy h _____
3. Who I _____ is more important than what I _____
4. God is generous and He expects me to be the _____
5. I need to _____ how I want to live and not let society determine that
6. I must _____ with my choices that I am a good steward and God is the Lord of my life
7. Learn the s _____ (Phil 4:11-13)
8. Money will not buy Heaven, but it may _____ me from it

- Make money without _____ your soul
- Save money without _____ others or the kingdom
- Spend money without it _____ your life

Money may buy a
fine dog...but
only love will make
him wag his tail!

