

**What is  
Idolatry?**

# BUILDING BLOCKS

**The Idol of  
Materialism**

**Part 6**

On Wednesdays throughout this month, we're looking at a few of the idols that seem to trip many of us up in the 21st century.



This week: **the idol of materialism**. **Covetousness**—wanting some thing more than I want God—is the drug that leads to the addiction of **materialism**.

We have constant reminders and recommendations of what “the good life” looks like in the eyes of the world, but take a careful look at **Ecclesiastes 2:4-11**. We aren't the first to look for fulfillment in stuff. What was this wise man's conclusion?

Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was \_\_\_\_\_ and a striving after \_\_\_\_\_... (2:11)

But this isn't just some Old Testament warning from a long time ago. Jesus himself warned us in **Matthew 19:**

“Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a \_\_\_\_\_ person enter the kingdom of heaven.” (19:23)

Even if I gain “the whole \_\_\_\_\_,” if it costs me my soul, I've made a bad, bad trade (**Matt 16:26**).

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- In your own words, what is “materialism” How can it come to be an addiction?
- How are we tempted toward materialism today? If the average American describes “the good life,” what might he or she say? What might they leave out?
- What did the wise writer of **Ecclesiastes 2:11** mean when he described all that his hands had done and acquired as “vanity”? How was it like “striving after wind”?
- This is a deadly trap that God warns us about all through the Bible. Let's summarize what he is communicating in:
  - **1 Timothy 6:6-8** -
  - **Hebrews 13:5** -
  - **Luke 8:5, 7, 14** -
- So why is it “only with difficulty” that a rich person will avoid the idol of materialism and “enter the kingdom of heaven”?