

LESSON 36: CHRISTIAN BELIEVES GOD OWNS EVERYTHING

(I) GOD AND POSSESSIONS

A. What Does the Bible Say?

1. Warnings against the inner spirit of slavery that an idolatrous attachment to wealth brings.

- a. Though your riches increase, do not set your hearts on them. Ps. 62:10
- b. The 10th commandment is against covetousness, the inner lust to have, which leads to?
- c. He who trusts in riches will wither - Proverbs 11:28

2. Jesus comments on materialism

- a. Luke 16:13
- b. Luke 6:24
- c. Matthew 6:21
- d. Matthew 6:19
- e. Luke 12:15
- f. Relate a remembered incident where Jesus addressed the issue of money or possessions.

3. The Epistles reflect the same concern

- a. I Tim. 6:9
- b. I Tim. 3:3
- c. I Tim. 6:8
- d. Hebrews 13:5
- e. James 4:1,1
- f. I Tim. 6:17-19
- g. A note of caution, forced poverty is evil and should be renounced. Scripture declares consistently and forcefully that the creation is good and to be enjoyed.

4. Now we come to the central point in this teaching. How do we stay in balance and not give too much or too little.
 - a. Matthew 6:24-33
 - b. This is the central point for exercising the discipline of simplicity. Seek the Kingdom of God and the righteousness of His Kingdom first. First things first.
 - c. Using the other disciplines we have learned like prayer, solitude, meditation, get silent and seek God.

5. The inward reality of simplicity.
 - a. To receive what we have as a gift from God "daily bread", sun, water, air.
 - b. To care for what we have. God is able to protect what we possess. We can trust Him.
 - c. To have our goods available to others. Fear of the future.

6. Outward expression of simplicity
 - a. These should not be viewed as laws, but as an attempt to flesh out the meaning of simplicity into twentieth century life.
 - b. Buy things for their usefulness rather than their status
 - c. Reject anything that is producing an addiction in you
 - d. Develop a habit of giving things away
 - e. De-accumulate
 - f. Refuse to be propagandized by modern gadgets
 - g. Learn to enjoy things without owning them
 - h. Develop a deeper appreciation for the creation
 - i. Look with healthy skepticism at all "buy now, pay later" schemes.
 - j. Obey Jesus' instructions about plain speech - Matthew 5:37
 - k. Reject anything that will breed the oppression of others
 - l. Shun whatever would distract you from your main goal

Pray for one another and how we use our lives and pos

