

The Folly of Materialism

Matt. 6:31-33

Introduction:

A. "Materialism"

1. "A great or excessive regard for worldly concerns." (Microsoft Bookshelf '95).
 - a. Possessed by possessions.
 - b. Making life revolve around this world and things in it (cf. Lk. 12:15).
2. At the root of many national and social problems.
 - a. Think all problems solved by more money for social programs.
 - b. Think all social disturbances and crimes have an economic base.
3. Perhaps greatest hindrance to gospel today.
4. May be at the root of liberalism in the church.
 - a. Membership boosted by emphasis on elaborate facilities and social programs.
 - b. Bible teaching replaced by psychological and sociological counseling.

B. Jesus gives three reasons why materialism is so foolish:

Discussion:

I. Materialism is Insecure (Matt 6.19-20).

- A. Because our "things" may leave us at any time (cf. Job).
 1. Internal dangers: "Moth & rust", inflation, depression, various economic failure.
 2. External dangers: "Thieves", burned, stolen, swindled, storm, floods, etc.
- B. Because we may have to leave our "things" at any time (cf. Lk. 12:20,21)
 1. Can carry nothing with us (1 Tim. 6:6,7).
 2. How much did rich man leave? He left it all.

II. Materialism Is Blinding (Matt 6.21-24).

- A. Blinds one to the desire for heaven (v. 21) — Thinks has it all here.
- B. Blinds one of the need to put God's kingdom and righteousness first (vv. 24, 33).
 1. Spiritual education before secular education.
 2. Church meetings before other meetings.
 3. Spiritual exercise before physical exercise.
 4. Lord's work before own work.

III. Materialism Is Unnecessary (Matt 6.25-34).

- A. Because God is able to provide for our needs.
 1. He who gave us a body and life can provide our material needs (v. 25).
 2. He who cares for lesser creatures can care for us (vv. 26-31).
- B. Because God has promised to provide our needs — if (v. 33; cf. Ps. 37:25).
 1. Has not promised to hand them to us without effort on our part (cf. 2 Thess 3:10).
 2. Has promised to make a way for us to make a living while putting the kingdom first.

Conclusion:

- A. One can have an interest in material things without being materialistic.
 1. Many parasites of society claim disdain for materialism — really have disdain for work.
 2. Again, materialism is the excessive interest in the material things of the world.
- B. One must put spiritual concerns above all material concerns.
 1. Start by obeying the gospel Christ.
 2. Continue by daily seeking first the kingdom of God.