

“Lies the World Has Taught Me” Series

Week Three: You Are the Sum of Your Stuff

Key Verses

Romans 12: 2 – “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

Matthew 16: 26 – “What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?” – quote from Jesus

Questions – What are you striving to acquire, believing it will make you more content? What possessions do you have that impress God?

What is materialism? “a desire for wealth and material possessions with little interest in ethical or spiritual matters”

Is it Wrong to Have Possessions and Wealth?

- **Abraham** as opposed to Lot
- **Joseph** as compared to Solomon
- **Job** as compared to the rich farmer in the parable

What Does Materialism Create?

- **Reduces people to things (subhuman)** (Psalm 49: 20)
- **Independence from God** (Proverbs 30: 9)
- **False security** (Matthew 6: 19-21)
- **Distraction from eternal things** (Matthew 16: 26)
- **Inability to steward true riches** (Luke 16: 11)

Renewing My Mind Regarding “My” Possessions

1. **It all belongs to God** (Psalm 24: 1; Leviticus 25: 23; I Cor. 6: 20)
2. **Develop a steward mentality** (Matthew 25: 19; Romans 14: 12)
3. **Become genuinely thankful** (Mark 14: 3)
4. **“Possessions” make great sacrifices** (John 6: 5)
5. **Things are to be enjoyed, but held loosely** (Ecclesiastes 5: 19)

Scriptures to Study This Week at Home

- **Psalm 49: 16-20**
- **Luke 12: 15, 29-34**
- **I Timothy 6: 5-10**
- **Matthew 6: 19-21**

*****all bolded and underlined words are to be left out of the bulletin**