

MONEY MATTERS

(How to Make Your Money Count for Now and Forever)

THE MONSTER OF MATERIALISM

Hebrews 13:5-6

Jeff Schreve

Materialism is a preoccupation with or emphasis on material objects, comforts, and considerations over spiritual values.

*Let your character be free from the love of money, **being content with what you have**; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT SHALL MAN DO TO ME?" Hebrews 13:5-6*

*"Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."
Luke 12:15*

Why does the Lord warn us so strongly about materialism?

1. Materialism thwarts spiritual growth.

A. Materialism keeps lost people from coming to the Lord.

But at these words his face fell, and he went away grieved, for he was one who owned much property. Mark 10:22

B. Materialism keeps saved people from growing in the Lord.

Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

Revelation 3:17

2. Materialism produces unhappiness.

A. Materialism attempts to find satisfaction apart from God.

He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 5:10

B. Materialism always finds dissatisfaction apart from God.

So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind. Ecclesiastes 2:17

There is a grievous evil which I have seen under the sun: riches being hoarded by their owner to his hurt. Ecclesiastes 5:13

3. Materialism distracts us from our purpose.

For our citizenship is in heaven Philippians 3:20

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20

A. Materialism enslaves us to the things of this world.

B. Materialism deters us from our mission to this world.

C. Materialism blinds us to our true riches in Jesus Christ.

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Will you put the monster of materialism to death today?