

THE DISTRACTION OF THINGS

Pastor's Bible Hour – June 27th 2010

Tabernacle of Praise – Pastor G. Richardson

Col 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Col 3:2 Set your affection on **things above**, not on **things on the earth**.

Col 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Col 3:4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

1. The two things that I would like to teach about today:

a. External Things

b. Eternal Things

2Co 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.

2Co 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

2Co 4:18 While we look not at **the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen**: for the **things which are seen are temporal**; but the things which are **not seen are eternal**.

1Ti 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

1Ti 6:7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

1Ti 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Introduction:

1. Before the Lord made man upon the earth he first prepared for him by creating a world of useful and pleasant things for his substance and delight. In the Genesis record they are simply called “**Things**”

Gen 1:31 And God saw every **thing** that he had made, and, behold, *it was* very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

2. These “**things**” were made for man’s use but were meant to always be external to the man and Man’s main purpose was to serve Him.
3. In the heart of man was a holy place where only God could come. Within him was God; without, a thousand gifts which God had showered upon him.
4. When sin came into the world it made the very gifts of God a potential source of ruin to the soul.
5. Within the heart of man “**things**” took over, and God was forced from his throne.

Gen 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Gen 3:9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou?

Gen 3:10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself.

The Tyranny of “Things”

tyr·an·ny: A government in which a single ruler is vested with absolute power. (It’s either things, or Jesus. We cannot serve two masters)

1. Jesus refers to this in Matthew 16:24-25

Mat 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Mat 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Mat 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

2. There is an enemy which we tolerate within us called –The SELF-LIFE.

- a. Its chief characteristic is possessiveness.
- b. To allow this enemy to live is in the end to lose everything.

- c. To give it up for Christ's sake is to **lose** nothing, but to **gain** eternal life.
 - d. The only effective way to destroy this foe is by the Cross. (Let him take up his cross and follow me.”)
3. **Song we used to sing**: “Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His Glory and bless.” “Take it all, take it all, what the world may offer me take it all. For one hundred years from now, it won't matter anyhow, what the world can offer me take it all.”
4. **What motivated the disciples and made them so willing to follow Jesus?**

Mat 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

Mat 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Mat 4:20 And they straightway left *their* nets, and followed him.

Mat 4:20 And they straightway left their nets,.... That is, as soon as he had called them, they left their worldly employment, and followed him; they gave up themselves to his service, and became his disciples; they not only left their "nets", but their fishing boats, and fishing trade, and all that belonged to it, even all their substance; and also their relations, friends, and acquaintance, which shows what a mighty power went along with the words and call of Christ; and what a ready, cheerful, and voluntary subjection this produces, wherever it takes place.

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Son 2:15 Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines *have* tender grapes.

Luk 10:38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

Luk 10:39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

Luk 10:40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

Luk 10:41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

Luk 10:42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

2. **Sometimes, we get caught up with doing and we don't take time to be ministered to.**

3. **The Devil offer Jesus "all these things:**

Mat 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

Mat 4:9 And saith unto him, **All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.**

Mat 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Luk 21:33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

Luk 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and *so* that day come upon you unawares.

Luk 21:35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

Luk 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

4. **It was just one thing that the young rich man lacked that cost him from following Jesus. "One thing thou lackest"**

5. **On the other side of the coin the disciples ask the Lord “we have left all and followed you what are we going to gain out of this.”**

Mat 19:27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

Mat 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Mat 19:29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

BREAKING THE YOKE OF THE OPPRESSOR

1. The battle is not won by fighting, but surrendering.
2. They have become “Poor in Spirit” and are “blessed”
3. They have rooted from their hearts all sense of possessing.
4. Free from all sense of possessing, they now possess all things. “Theirs in the kingdom of heaven.”

(Example) Gen 22 – Abraham was willing to give up the “things” he dearly loved in order to please God.

- a. He found the blessing through his willingness to separate (verse 17-18)
- b. We must be willing to lay down every Isaac to please God.
- c. In Abraham’s life “things” had been cast out forever, and because of this, he become the father of the faithful.

Heb 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Heb 11:9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

Heb 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

**THINGS ARE NOT SIN IN ITSELF- BUT WE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT
ATTITUDE ABOUT THINGS**

1. **The God First Life:**

Mat 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Mat 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

3Jn 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

2Co 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

2Co 6:10 As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as **having nothing, and yet possessing all things.**

“This World is not my home, I am just a passing through, and I have some treasure laid up, somewhere beyond the blue..... And I can’t feel at home in this world anymore.”