



## Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

America has been rightly called “the Disneyland of the world.” This is sometimes difficult for us to see because it is the ocean we swim in – the air we breathe. Compared to most of the world, Americans are immersed in luxury, prosperity, materialism ... and debt. I recently read that worldwide, one billion people do not have safe water to drink; sixteen thousand children die every day from hunger-related illnesses; and almost eighteen million children are orphaned in Sub-Saharan Africa. To be sure, there is poverty, homelessness, and hunger in America. But compared to other countries in the world – namely, third-world countries – most Americans are blessed far beyond what they realize.

In fact, it can be very difficult to live in America and accurately discern our true financial condition. This is partly because it is all too easy to compare ourselves to other Americans and, in comparison, our personal wealth does not appear to be extravagant. There is always someone who has more money, a bigger house, more toys, and better “stuff” than we do. In America, it’s relatively difficult to truly feel wealthy. Therefore, as Christians we must fight diligently to keep a spiritual perspective on money and possessions, and to remember that *“a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions”* (Lk.12:15).

One way to discern your attitude toward money is to examine not what you spend, but what you save. In other words, when money is tight what are the first financial cuts you make? Is it your cable bill or your church offering? Do you reduce your discretionary spending or your financial giving to missionaries? Does your “eating out” or “helping out” take a hit? Are you more prone to get rid of your cell phone or your benevolent giving? Do you give sacrificially or only out of your surplus?

Questions like these can help us spiritually examine our perspective toward and stewardship of money. Holding onto material (temporal) wealth while neglecting spiritual (eternal) wealth is an indication of a life that is too infatuated with worldly things (1Jn.2:15-17). How we view and spend (or save) money can be an accurate barometer of our true spiritual condition. There are many words that can be used to describe this reality, but the best word is idolatry.

An idol is anything you worship instead of, or in addition to, the one true God. Idolatry is the worshiping of a false god, but an idol does not have to be a wooden or golden statue. It is anything that is more important to you than God. An idol is something that promises to give you security or identity apart from God, or something that if you were to lose it would rob life of its meaning and value. An idol is anything that captures your supreme affections, imaginations, and passions.

How we spend and save money reveals whether or not Christ is our true and supreme treasure. Because of this, Christ exhorted all of us when He commanded: *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”* (Matt.6:19-21).

This current national economic recession is a great opportunity for Christians to portray and proclaim their irrepressible love for and dependence on God. Unbelievers are not impressed when Christians pledge an undying faith to a God who gives them an abundance of blessings. But when Christians experience any degree of poverty or malady, unbelievers can take notice. Consciously or not, they look to see if our faith is as real and strong in times of “poverty” as it is in times of prosperity.

Together in and for Christ,  
Pastor David  
(2/23/26)

**Scripture Readings for the Week** (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #8):

*Genesis 28-31; Judges 12-16; Psalm 21-23; Job 15-16; Isaiah 40-44; Matthew 20-22; Romans 15-16*

**Recommended Reading:**

*“The Treasure Principle”* by Randy Alcorn