

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)

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Safe & Secure

Art Nelson

Introduction

Being safe and secure in all aspects of our lives is a desire that is built into us as descendents of Adam. This desire is a result of Adam and Eve's experience in the Garden that resulted in the fall of man. Until Adam's disobedience there was no question of safety or security. God had made provision for all that was needed by Adam and Eve. They were safe and secure in His presence and in His purpose. However, all of this changed after Eve's deception and Adam's disobedience.

Provision and Protection

Life in the Garden was secure. Everything that was needed was provided and there was every protection afforded by the presence of God. When Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden, the provision and protection of the Lord was lost. Now man had to secure his provision himself by the "sweat of his brow" and protect his family and his work by the strength of his arm.

Safety and security became primary concerns. It was now up to man, himself, to provide for his own and protect his own. All of this became a work of man's nature, his "flesh", apart from God. Due to man's fallen nature, this drive for safety and security was built into the foundations of the world system.

As a result, the world system became focused on ways for one to become completely safe and secure. This was done through power and possessions. One had to accumulate possessions to ensure that one's self and family had the necessary provisions and then to accumulate more in case there was a problem that threatened the family. The best way to protect family and provisions was to gain power over others. Therefore, power and possessions became the primary focus of the world system. Eventually, money became the measure of one's power and ability to protect what one had accumulated. With money comes power, the power to control and direct others. The pursuit of power and position through money became the goal of all who walked after the world system.

Money

Money became a substitute for God. It would provide the security and provisions necessary without the necessity of submitting to the Lord. Money or wealth became the true god of the world system. Jesus made it clear that wealth and God are in conflict as it relates to the hearts of men.

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. (Matthew 6:24 NASB)

NOTE: The word translated “wealth” here is rendered “mammon” in the King James Bible. It is a Chaldee word that means “money-god”.

The “cannot” of this verse means that we are unable, incapable of serving both. A choice must be made, either knowingly or by default.

Now, let's be clear about this. God doesn't have a problem with us having wealth. He has a problem if wealth has us; that is, if wealth is our motivation. If that is what our hearts pursue. If wealth is our source of security and provision. When that happens we are in idolatry, serving a false god—the “money-god”.

Paul told Timothy to give instructions to those who were rich according to the standards of the world. It is important that the wealthy learn not to trust their riches to provide security. To hope in riches is to hope in uncertainty.

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. (1 Timothy 6:17 NASB)

Earlier in the chapter Paul explained the problems associated with a desire for wealth:

But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (1 Timothy 6:9-10 NASB)

The pursuit of money has consequences for those whose hearts desire it.

1. You fall into temptation;
2. you fall into a snare;
3. you fall into many foolish and harmful desires,
 - a) which plunge you into ruin and destruction.

The love of money, which is a heart function of the flesh

1. is a root of all sorts of evil;
2. longing for riches,
 - a) cause some to wander away from the faith;

b) cause some to pierce themselves with many griefs.

Money as a goal leads us away from the Lord. When it is a heart desire it becomes an idol resulting in the sorrows that idolatry brings.

What does it mean?

What does all of this really mean to us? Consider that the Scriptures tell us that the god of this world is our enemy and an enemy to the things of God. The world system has been crafted by our enemy and the desires of our flesh to maintain independence from God. The “money-god” has become the god of the world system and is in direct conflict with the Lord Jesus. The full truth of this is revealed by the fact that in book of Revelation we find the Beast and the Beast Kingdom controlling the world by controlling buying and selling—one cannot buy or sell without his mark (Rev. 13:16-17). As this age begins to close, the paths to riches are increasingly, even blatantly, controlled by our enemy to the point that to pursue money eventually requires worship of the devil.

We need to honestly evaluate some things from a new perspective with the help of the Holy Spirit. One of those things is capitalism. We have exalted capitalism as a god given right. But, consider, is not capitalism simply buying and selling? Is it not money driven; that is driven by greed? Is not its goal to provide a lifestyle that is independent of God? We cannot place our hopes in capitalism because its end is as a tool of the Beast.

We also need to honestly evaluate the ministers of God who are promoting wealth, especially the television ministries where giving becomes a tool to get money. Their teaching has become more and more about getting money, power, success and less and less about His Kingdom and His righteousness. Is it possible that they are bringing and promoting “money-god” idolatry among the people of God?

We need to evaluate our own hearts. What is our motivation? Are we pursuing the things of the world and the desires of our society and our flesh or are we pursuing the Kingdom of God? Are we guilty of heaping to ourselves teachers that promise us good things, a wealthy life and freedom from all problems?

Has the word of the Kingdom become unfruitful in our western society because our ground is that which Jesus described this way:

"And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. (Matthew 13:22 NASB)

We are only safe and secure when our faith and our hope is in our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our fortress, our high tower, our refuge, our very present help in times of trouble. He and He alone is our God. There are no others before Him. Amen and amen.

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For comments or questions contact Art Nelson at this address:

artnelson@lifestreamteaching.com

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