

Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

Soul Shift Series: From Consumer to Steward

A shift in ownership from acquiring things for ourselves to offering what we have to God and others

Week of April 29, 2018 A.D.

God did not give us life on earth for the purpose of being consumers. God gave us life on earth for the purpose of building the kingdom of God.

Read Deuteronomy 8:10 – 14

1. Please state all of the physical/material benefits which God has given to the American people. Has America (a) become proud? (b) forgotten God? (c) rejected the commands of God? Please offer evidence to support your answers.

Read Deuteronomy 8:17 – 20

2. Did Israel forget the Lord? Was Israel destroyed? From these verses, what principle or warning is to be learned by (a) our nation? and (b) each of us individually? What actions should each of us take in response to that warning? Be specific.

Read 2 Timothy 3:1 – 5

3. In the last days: (a) what will people love? (b) what will people not love? Please explain how being “lovers of themselves” and “lovers of money” are the root cause of the sinful behavior mentioned in the balance of that sentence.
4. How does the world define success? According to Psalm 15, how does God define success? Please state in your own words how the behavior which is stated in each separate verse of Psalm 15 may or may not be an antidote for selfishness or greed.

Read Micah 6:6 – 8

5. Based on your understanding of how God wants us to behave, how can a person use money and material possessions to: (a) act justly? (b) love mercy? and (c) walk humbly with your God? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Read Proverbs 30:7 – 9

6. Is verse 9 an accurate statement of what most often happens when a person has either poverty or riches? Please explain your answer.

7. In your opinion, does a the accumulation of personal wealth have more to do with (a) God's will or (b) the person's own will? Please explain your answers.

Read Matthew 25:1, 14 Psalm 24:1 and 1Corinthians 4:7

8. Who owns everything? What are the implications of these verses for everyone who follows Christ? Please explain your answers.

Read James 1:26 – 27

9. Is it the government's responsibility to look after widows and orphans? Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "There would be no government welfare system in America if the Christians would to what God has told them to do."

Read James 5:1 – 6

10. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Investing in the stock market is typically selfish and lacks eternal benefits. Owning a business, paying good wages, showing love and concern for your employees, and continually expanding and employing more people is God's way of investing."

Read 1 Timothy 6:17 – 19

11. According to verse 18, what are wealthy Christians commanded to do? Why does God make this command? According to verse 19, what are the benefits to the giver? If God promises eternal treasures for those who obey these verses, why do so few people (including you and me) fail to obey God in this matter? Please explain your answers.
12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Each day, God provides sufficient resources to meet the physical needs of every person on the planet. The problem is a distribution problem. When Christians handle wealth God's way, the problem is diminished. When Christians handle wealth the world's way (i.e. the way of Satan), the problem continues and even grows.

Consider: Socialism and Communism are anti-God because they reject the free will of man. Capitalism is anti-God when man rejects the will of God. In either case, sin abounds. "You think about that." Amen.