

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

July 6, 2016

Issue No. 254 Mark Aites, Editor

Needs

"The greatest need of youth is money; of middle age is time, of old age is energy." – Anonymous

"One of the oldest human needs is having someone to wonder where you are when you don't come home at night." – Margaret Mead

"We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements of life, when all that we need to make us really happy is something to be enthusiastic about." – Charles Kingsley

"...our three basic human needs (self-worth, intimacy with others, and intimacy with God)." – Frank B. Minirth and Paul D. Meier, *Happiness is a Choice*

"We all need to think we belong to other people." – Linda Donelson, speech, June 1988, Dallas, Texas

Curious, do you know the difference between a want and a need? Maybe Webster can help us a little. Concerning a *want*, Webster states, "have a desire to possess or do (something)." When we look at the word *need*, "require (something) because it is essential or very important."

When we start talking about wants, there are many things we may want that are not necessarily a need. For example, many folks would love to have large sums of cash. It is not essential but for some, it is very desirable. Perhaps someone would want to live in a beautiful mansion, or drive a luxury vehicle. Again, it is a want and certainly not a need. The Lord was careful to promise us that He would provide food, shelter, and clothing, but often our wants are greater than the simple comforts which the Lord affords (Matt. 6:31-33).

Now it is very possible and likely that something we need is also something we want. For example, salvation can fall into both categories. Salvation is essential if we want eternal life, and it is most certainly desirable. "Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, 'Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?'" (Mark 10:17).

Where we must be careful is that we don't place our emphasis upon our wants and desires, but upon our needs. What is it that is really essential?

When you really look at needs, you realize that you need oxygen to breathe, you need food and water to survive, and we need to rest as sleep is necessary.

If you were to ask young people today what they need, you are liable to hear a cell phone, music, friends to hang out with, a place where they can go, etc.

In reality, man has not done a very good job of separating wants from needs.