

Messenger of Truth

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

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Possessions

"Men are not great or small because of their material possessions. They are great or small because of what they are." – J.C. Penney

"Treasure your relationships, not your possessions." – Anthony J. D'Angelo

"Happiness resides not in possessions, and not in gold, happiness dwells in the soul." – Democritus

"Wealth consists not in having great possessions, but in having few wants." – Epictetus

"Greatness is not found in possessions, power, position, or prestige. It is discovered in goodness, humility, service, and character." – Willian Arthur Ward

Welcome to the world of affluence. America is a land where possessions abound. It is astounding to see how some people live; cars, trucks, boats, yachts, airplanes, land, mansions, etc. America has more than ten million millionaires. With more than 1800 billionaires in this world, with a combined wealth of \$2.4 trillion dollars, one can readily see that many people love and hold on to great possessions.

Solomon certainly understood great wealth and possessions. If he had his wealth today it would be valued at more than \$2.4 trillion. It is hard to conceive of the money and possessions he enjoyed.

Here in America, we actually are living better than most people in this world. How do we regard our possessions?

Our Lord makes us painfully aware of how we should view what we possess. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:19-21). "And he said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (Luke 12:15).

Interesting that we pride ourselves in our possessions but Jesus deflates our notion of greatness. True, man associates greatness with the more one can accumulate. But in reality, there is not a single possession you can take with you when you die.

You no doubt have heard the old humorous cliché that you never see a U-Haul behind a hearse. Remember, everyone upon death takes absolutely nothing with them; not one penny, not one single item valued in this world.

When a person begins to realize that material possessions are only temporary, perhaps then he begins to understand what Jesus meant when He said: "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26).