

Conquering Giants

1 Samuel 17:40-51

A series of sermons
regarding some of the giants
that we face today and the
power that God provides to
overcome them.

PEPPER ROAD

CHURCH OF CHRIST



Materialism

1 John 2:15-17

Materialism

- **Definition:**

- “a great or excessive regard for worldly concerns.”

- (American Heritage Dictionary)*

- “The tendency to be more concerned with material than with spiritual goals.”

- **Christian faces no greater problem**

- Based on bulk of N.T. teaching on it

- Truly a “first principals” subject **(Matt.6:24)**

Clarifying The Problem

- **No inherent virtue or spiritual value in being poor...**
 - Not advocating “theology of poverty”
 - The poor may be very materialistic
- **No inherent virtue or spiritual value in being rich**
 - (**Job 34:19; Psa.73:12**)
- **The problem is in our *attitude* toward money and material things**

Clarifying The Problem

- **Materialism actually encompasses several related problems**
 - Discontent
 - Envy or Jealousy

Clarifying The Problem

- **Desire to better one's "station in life" is not in itself materialistic**
- **What distinguishes *materialism* from honorable work ethic?**
 - Selfishness
 - Excessiveness and covetousness

The Sin of Covetousness

- **Covetousness is harshly condemned in the Bible**
 - (Eph.5:3,5) (Col.3:5) (1Cor.6:9,10)
 - Yet we tend to ignore it
- **One of few sins specifically named as grounds for withdrawal of fellowship**
 - Yet never confessed and hard to identify

Materialistic Addiction

- **Pattern of behavior regarding material things often fits pattern of addiction**
 - Creates predictable, reliable sensations
 - Becomes the primary focus and absorbs attention
 - Temporarily eradicates pain and other negative sensations
 - Provides artificial sense of self-worth, power, control, security, intimacy, accomplishment
 - Exacerbates the problems and feelings it is sought to remedy
 - Worsens functioning, creates loss of relationships

Our Materialistic Addiction

- Pattern of behavior regarding material things often fits pattern of addiction
- Yet this addiction is applauded
- With materialism the “fix” never lasts
 - (**Ecc.5:10**)
- Material addiction leads to living beyond means, crushing debt, stress
 - (**Ecc.5:12**)

The Dangers of Wealth

- While not inherently evil, wealth does involve some real dangers
 - (Prov.23:4-5)
 - (Mk.4:19)
 - (1Tim.6:9-10)
- Able to see difficulties of being “hungry” but fail to see difficulties of being “full”
 - (Phil.4:11-13) (Prov.30:8-9)

The Dangers of Wealth

- Tends to draw our trust away from God
 - (**Prov.11:28**)
 - (**Lk.12:13-21; 16:19-31**)
 - (**1Tim.6:17**)
- The heart is devoted to the treasure
 - (**Matt.6:21**)
 - (**Matt.19:23-24**)

Desire For Earthly Success

- Great in God's mind or in man's?
 - (**Mk.10:43-45**)
 - (**Jn.5:44**)
 - (**Jn.12:42-43**)
- The Danger
 - May have to surrender it (**Matt.10:22-25**)
 - Earthly success is intoxicating and deceiving (**2Cor.10:12**)

Desire For Earthly Success

- **Women pressure to follow the world's standards for success**
 - God's priority for the woman – “home keeper” or “home manager” (**Titus 2:5**) (**1Tim.5:14**)
 - Women were created for this purpose (**Gen.2:18**) (**1Cor.11:9**)
 - Older women should be teaching this! (**Titus 2:3-5**)

Desire For Earthly Success

- **Pursuing career or school at God's expense?**
 - Does career or school cause you to regularly miss assemblies? (**Heb.10:25**)
 - “Ox in the ditch”? (**Lk.14:5**)
 - Planning to devote self more fully in the future? (**Jas.4:14**)
 - No one can serve two masters (**Matt.6:24**)

Materialism – Our “*Goliath*”

- **So how do we defeat this *Giant*?**
 - Don’t be deceived (**Mk.4:19; Prov.23:4-5**)
 - Learn contentment (**1Tim.6:6-8**)
 - Don’t become “*entangled*” (**2Tim.2:4**)
 - Lay aside the weight (**Heb.12:1**)
 - Look unto Jesus (**Heb.12:2**)
 - Lay your treasures in heaven (**Matt.6:24**)

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