

Things vs. Spirit

What we own is who we are.



Madonna Sang...



**“You know that we are
living in a material
world...
And I am a material
girl...”**

It starts young...



Is it bad to own things?

Ecclesiastes 5:19

Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God.

No... it is a blessing from God.



“Hoarders”



What's the connection?

Dennis says...



What do “things” ask of us?

- Desire To have them (Mind/Heart)
- Acquire To buy them (\$\$/Resources)
- Aspire To use them (Time)
- Perspire To maintain them (Energy)
- Retire To give them up (Purpose)
- Expire To dispose of them (Effort)



My House - Welcome!



How Many TV's?

**BIGGEST
TIME WASTER
OF ALL!**



Bible Wisdom

Ephesians 5:15-17

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

1 John 2:16

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

How Many Clothes?



Bible Wisdom

Galatians 3:27

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Isaiah 61:10

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Deuteronomy 29:5

During the forty years that I led you through the desert, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet.

Matthew 6:25

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

How Many Utensils?



Bible Wisdom

Matthew 6:25

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

Hebrews 5:14

But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

1 Corinthians 3:1-2

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.

How Much "Gear"?



Bible Wisdom

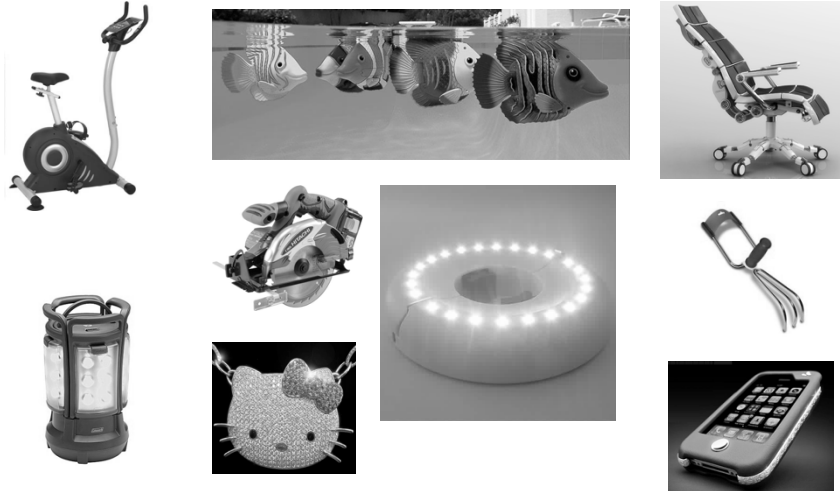
1 Corinthians 10:23

All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable All things are lawful, but not all things edify.

Matthew 4:19

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

How Many “gadgets”?



Bible Wisdom

Deut. 5:21

”...You shall not set your desire on your neighbor's house or land, his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

The Trade Off

- Article in AARP magazine, Jul/Aug 2010, “The Leap to Cheap”
- For many cheapskates the formula is simple: spending less money creates more time.
- “The relentless pressure buy more crap makes things like sleep, free time, and relationships the real luxuries these days” (Jacquie, age 55).
- ...the tight economy slowly changing more people’s minds about what she (Robin) calls the “true cost of stuff”.

Rich Young Ruler “Yard Sale”

Mark 10:20-22 (NASB)

And he said to Him, “Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up.” (The Law)

Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, “One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.



Attitude of the Rich Ruler Today?



The Warning

Luke 12:15

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."



The Challenge

Luke 12:33-34

**Sell your possessions and give to the poor.
Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**



What does God ask of us?

- **Desire** To know, love, & serve Him
- **Acquire** Knowledge, Faith, Hope, Love
- **Aspire** To gain righteousness
- **Perspire** To serve God and Man
- **Retire** To give up self, gain Heaven
- **Expire** To leave this world for an eternal home with God.

The Invitation...

1 Timothy 6:17

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.

Proverbs 11:4

Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death.

The Invitation...

Matthew 6:24

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

You cannot serve both God and Money."

Graveside Wisdom



**A man questioned a relative
at a graveside service...**

"How much did he leave?"

The reply...

"All of it."