

Getting What's Mine!

By: *Lenny Chapman*

What is life? For some it is nothing more than a race to accumulate as much in wealth or material things as possible before they die. There are some that are very open with their philosophy pertaining to this type of life, and you can see it by the way they flaunt their possessions. However, the larger percentages of people who live this way do so in secret. Sadly, this kind of living can exist even within the church. God is well aware that man is tempted by such thoughts and that is why His message throughout the Bible speaks about this type of mindset which is a fatal mistake when considering one's spiritual condition.



“And God said to Solomon: “Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life-but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king- wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like” (2Chr. 1:11-12). God inspired Solomon, the wealthiest of any man, to leave a message for all mankind who were to come after him regarding wealth and money. In the book of Ecclesiastes one can find many words of wisdom regarding this such as: “As he came from his mother's womb, naked shall he return, To go as he came; And he shall take nothing from his labor Which he may carry away in his hand.” (Ecc. 5:15). The apostle Paul wrote (1Tim. 6:10), “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” Jesus also said (Mat. 6:19-21), “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.”

So why the big rush to accumulate so much? Comfort, status, and achievement are just some of the reasons that people will secretly say for reasons they try to accumulate so much here on earth. All along believing they are just getting what they deserve, or in other words **“getting what's mine!”** This is such a sad way to live, because time after time we see that those who chase after the world's riches never seem to be happy with what they have. There is always a void. There is always the “next” thing that “may” make them happy. When and if happiness is found, it lasts for only a short time, because they soon want what someone else has. Just like so many other sins, this thought process starts out slowly and with small expectations, however in time they become surer in their thoughts that they are “owed” something in this life and this thinking becomes “THE” way of life for them.

The only sure thing we have as people, is GOD! Realistically speaking, all that we have is not ours at all, but His! It was His before we got here and it will be His long after we are gone. We are but stewards of the things He has allowed us to have. As Solomon said, no one has come into this world with one piece of material goods in hand. What everyone needs to come to grips with is that all that we have has been given to us by God. We are to take care of the things which he has given to us, use them for good, and for God's purpose. When we find a good night's rest because of the bed we have, are we using the day's energy for God in any way? With the homes that He has blessed us with, are we using them to show hospitality to others, including your brothers and sisters in Christ? Are there any plans to share with others the food that fills the refrigerator, freezer, and pantry? All that we have should be used to strengthen those in the church, as well as help those less fortunate who do not know God come to the understanding about Him.

Let us be diligent and always about the Father's business. ***"Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life."*** (Pro. 4:23). Our life is not about "getting what's mine," it is about helping others get to heaven!