

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

1. ***"The Treasure Principle"*** by Randy Alcorn is a short and engaging book on generosity and eternal rewards, challenging readers to live for heavenly treasures.
2. ***"Money, Possessions, and Eternity"*** by Randy Alcorn is a comprehensive resource addressing biblical principles about stewardship, wealth, and materialism.
3. ***"Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices"*** by Thomas Brooks, is a great companion in the lifelong fight for joy and against sin
4. ***"The Gospel and Money"*** by Jonathan Leeman and Jamie Dunlop is a short but impactful book that examines how the gospel transforms our view of money and possessions.
5. ***"Counterfeit Gods"*** by Timothy Keller, explores the idolatry of wealth, success, and possessions, showing how only God can satisfy our deepest desires.
6. ***"Resisting the Seduction of a Fallen World"*** by Dave Harvey uncovers the presence of worldliness and helps believers learn to relate to the world while resisting its influence in their lives.



TO EVERY THING THERE IS A SEASON, AND A
TIME TO EVERY PURPOSE UNDER THE HEAVEN:
A TIME TO BE BORN, AND A TIME TO DIE;
A TIME TO PLANT, AND
A TIME TO PLUCK UP THAT WHICH IS PLANTED;
A TIME TO KILL, AND A TIME TO HEAL;
A TIME TO BREAK DOWN, AND

Life Under the Sun

Bible Study concerning Materialism

A TIME TO BUILD UP;
A TIME TO WEEP, AND A TIME TO LAUGH;
TIME TO MOURN, AND
A TIME TO DANCE; A TIME TO CAST AWAY STONES,
AND
A TIME TO GATHER STONES TOGETHER;
A TIME TO EMBRACE, AND A TIME TO REFRAIN FROM
EMBRACING;
A TIME TO GET, AND A TIME TO LOSE;

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 02. Rightly Enjoying Material Things
- 03. Idolizing Material Things
- 04. Identifying Materialism
- 05. Fighting Materialism
- 06. Suggested Resources

"Every treasure on earth says, 'Give me your money and your life.' Jesus says, 'Give me your life, and I'll give you treasures in heaven.'"

Randy Alcorn in the Treasure Principle

4. Fight for Faith to Rest in God

- Trust/rest in the Lord. Prov. 3:5-6
- Trust God's promises, even in fear or scarcity.
- Contentment grows when we rely on His faithfulness (Heb. 13:5).

5. Think About Heaven

- Look up and not just down the aisle. Col. 3:2
- Earthly possessions are temporary; eternal rewards are lasting.
- "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." – Jim Elliot

6. Give Generously

- Explanation: Generosity reflects eternal priorities and shifts our focus from materialism to God's kingdom. 1 Timothy 6:18-19
- It redirects our affections from material things to eternal values.

"Materialism is a pervasive challenge, but God's Word offers a way forward. By treasuring Him above all, confessing our idols, and fighting the subtle allure of wealth, we can live lives that glorify Him. Let us find our joy, security, and contentment in Christ alone."

FIGHTING MATERIALISM

Identifying materialism is the first step. Next, we must take deliberate action to fight against it.

1. Treasure the Excellence and Beauty of God

- Finding delight and satisfaction in God's presence and beauty. Psalm 27:4
- Meditate on Scripture, pray, and recall God's faithfulness.
- Read books and listen to resources that magnify God's greatness.

2. Recognize the Danger of Materialism

- Greed is idolatry and leads to ruin. 1 Tim. 6:9
- Materialism and greed lead to spiritual harm and distance from God. 1 Timothy 6:10
- Understand that materialism weakens your faith and relationships.

3. Confess Materialism as Sin

- Recognize materialism's root causes in your heart.
- Return to God with repentance (Lam. 3:40).

"While possessions can create powerful feelings, they're meant to point us to God. Misusing them—whether through wastefulness or hoarding—reveals misplaced trust in things rather than the Creator."

HOW DO WE RIGHTLY ENJOY MATERIAL THINGS?

*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. **1 Timothy 4:4-5***



1 Timothy 4:1-5 reminds us that material things, created by God, are good and meant to be enjoyed with thanksgiving.

- We often think that if we sacrifice something for God (such as the right to marry or to eat certain foods), then He owes us something
- Viewing material things according to God's Word.
- Receiving them with gratitude.
- Acknowledging God's provision through prayer.

These gifts should lead us to worship the Giver, not the gifts themselves. God richly provides all we need to enjoy life, but our ultimate hope must rest in Him alone, not in transient possessions.



MONEY AND POSSESSIONS ARE A MAJOR ISSUE IN SCRIPTURE

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. **Matthew 6:19-20**

- Materialism: a tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as more important than spiritual values.
- Idolatry: extreme admiration, love, or reverence for something or someone.

In the Parables Jesus Gave

- Out of those, 16 parables are about handling money.
- Christ placed a major emphasis on money and possessions:
- He spoke more about money and possessions than about heaven and hell combined.

In the Gospels:

- 1 out of every 10 verses deals with money or possessions.
- There are 288 verses in the four Gospels about money and possessions.

In the Bible as a whole:

- There are 500+ references to prayer.
- There are 500- references to faith.
- There are 2,000+ references to money and possessions.

Why do we love acquiring things?

- Happiness: Material things make us feel good. **Ecc. 5:10**
- Security: They assure us we're not in need. **Heb. 13:5**
- Comfort: They alleviate our anxiety. **1 Peter 5:7**
- Confidence: Wealth brings a sense of power. **Deut. 8:18**
- Attraction: Possessions make us desirable. **Prov. 31:30**
- Belonging: They help us fit in with others. **Romans 12:12**
- Control: They allow us to shape our lives. **Prov 19:21**

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM IDOLIZING MATERIAL THINGS?

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 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. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. 1 John 2:15-17

Identifying idolatry and materialism in our live. 1 John 2:15-17

- Love for other things crowd out the love for God
- Lust of the Flesh - a craving for self-gratification which always leads to broken relationships.
- Lust of the Eyes - greedy longings of the mind, often leading to acts of covetousness.
- Pride of Life - assurance of one's own resources or in the stability of earthly things. Being self-sufficient instead of God-reliant.

Self-assessment can reveal whether we've misplaced our trust:

1. Distraction: Does 'X' keep you from God's work?
2. Delight: Are you more excited about possessions than God?
3. Loss: How do you react when something is taken away?
4. Comparison: Do others' possessions breed discontentment in you?
5. Fear: Do possessions falsely comfort or secure you?