

Introduction

1. God created the material Universe and saw that it was very good ([Gen. 1:31](#)).
 - a. This teaches us that matter is not inherently evil.
 - b. God still makes man upright today ([Ecc. 7:29](#)).
2. God created valuables which could be possessed and traded ([Gen. 2:11-12](#)).
 - a. There were rich individuals who were also righteous.
 - i. Job was a very rich man ([Job 1:3](#)) and righteous ([Eze. 14:14](#)).
 - ii. Abram was a very rich man ([Gen. 13:2](#); cf. [Gen. 24:35](#)) and righteous ([Jm. 2:23](#)).
 - b. This teaches us that valuables are not inherently evil.
3. Placing focus on material things to the neglect of the greater spiritual valuables is the real problem.
 - a. Materialism is defined as “a preoccupation with or stress upon material rather than intellectual or spiritual things” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary).
 - b. Remember that man shall not live by bread alone ([Mt. 4:4](#)).

I. Materialism: The Focus is Low

1. My focus must be set on things above ([Col. 3:1-2](#)).
 - a. **Seek** those things which are above ([Col. 3:1](#)).
 - b. **Set** your affection on things above ([Col. 3:2](#)).
 - c. It has been said that my attitude determines my altitude.

II. Materialism: The Focus is Ego

1. The parable of the rich man ([Lk. 12:16-21](#)).
 - a. God had given this man plenty ([Lk. 12:16](#)).
 - b. All he could see was himself ([Lk. 12:17-19](#)).
 - c. He was a fool ([Lk. 12:20](#)).
 - d. His possessions possessed him ([Lk. 12:20](#)).
 - e. He exchanged his soul for material things ([Mt. 16:26](#)).
 - f. I want to be rich toward God ([Lk. 12:21](#)).

III. Materialism: The Focus is a No-Go

1. What if I lost every material thing I had?
 - a. Job did ([Job 1:13-19](#)).
 - b. He was still faithful to God because he was not materialistic though he was rich with goods ([Job 1:20-22](#)).
 - c. God blessed his latter end more than the beginning ([Job 42:12](#)).
2. The dead are not concerned with material things anymore ([Col. 3:3](#); [Gal. 5:24](#)).
 - a. To Job's point, we are not taking any of it with us anyway ([1 Tim. 6:7](#)).
 - b. Riches are uncertain and a deceitful thing to trust in ([1 Tim. 6:17](#); [Mt. 13:22](#)).
 - c. Riches make themselves wings ([Pr. 23:5](#)).
 - d. Riches are not forever ([Pr. 27:24](#)).
3. I can only keep what I send on by giving ([Mt. 6:19-21](#)).
 - a. My estimation of net worth and God's estimation may be two different things ([Rev. 3:17](#)).
 - b. I want to be rich in good works, generous in giving, willing to share, so that I might obtain eternal life ([1 Tim. 6:17-19](#)).
 - c. If I have not been faithful in material things, who will commit to my trust the true riches ([Lk. 16:10-13](#))?
4. Remember, it is all going to burn up one day ([2 Pt. 3:10](#)).
 - a. So, I want to be holy and godly which means **not** materialistic ([2 Pt. 3:11-12](#)).

Conclusion

1. Materialism has the wrong focus.
2. Being givers guards against materialism.
 - a. The appropriate thing to do with my material things is to honor God and help others ([Pr. 3:9-10](#); [Ps. 37:25-26](#)).
 - b. Blessings are connected with being givers ([Lk. 6:38](#))!