

Biblical Counseling Center publishes eCounselor's Weekly guide, to encourage counselors and all believers in discipleship and daily growth.

### Who Needs More When You Have Everything?

by Sherry Allchin M.A.

When asked what it would take to make him happy, John Paul Getty once answered, "One more dollar." At that time, he was the richest man in the world, and couldn't possibly spend in his lifetime all the money he already had at his disposal. But after several failed marriages, he said he would have given all he owned just for one satisfying marriage. He totally missed out on life!



#### Things won't make us happy!

Our culture is characterized by the belief that "things" will make us happy. 2Tim 3:1-5 describes our culture as selfish pleasure-seekers who are unthankful, i.e., discontent. The true and living God is shelved for the gods of this world who promise satisfaction but deliver ultimate heartache. The rich fool in Luke 12:13-21 found out that his treasures amounted to nothing without a relationship with God Who would guide him to the right priorities in life.

If this bad economy has a bright side, it is that many people now see that the things they valued so dearly aren't even missed when they are gone. Instead, strong and committed relationships prove to have value when "things" fail us. People matter forever; things matter for a minute.

#### Godliness with contentment is great gain.

"Stuff" in and of itself is not sinful, but greed gets us no place good (1Tim 6:6-11). When "stuff" is for selfish purposes (to get approval of people, to live a lustful lifestyle, to live independently of God), then it becomes a god who destroys those who worship it. Lusts are never satisfied; they always cry out for more and more, while producing less and less satisfaction.

Our treasure is to be eternal, enjoying what He provides, content with His plan for our lives as we seek His righteousness (Mt 6: 19-34). We are to use what He has given us to further His kingdom (1Tim 6:17-19). Seeking God first and living for Him produces eternal riches (Col 3:1-4).

#### Only God can satisfy!

God wants us to be satisfied in Him alone. He gives us love, peace, joy – all we need – as we find true contentment in Him. The more we understand all that we are and have in Christ as Savior the more we are thankful and content in our relationship with Him (Eph 1-3) and with others (1Jn 3:16-17). We can truly say with the apostle Paul, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Paul understood that his life's purpose while he was still on earth was about a relationship with Christ, loving and serving Him and doing His work, and that even when He had died and was in Heaven, it was still about his relationship with Christ, being with Him for eternity! That is why Paul could be content in any circumstance (Php 4:11-12). His life was totally about His relationship with the Lord, both now and for eternity. He had everything!

- What is your greatest treasure today?
- Will that treasure last a minute, a year, an eternity?
- Would you give your life for your treasure?
- Do you have "things" or "everything" ?

#### Biblical Counseling Center

[Main Office](#) • 3233 N Arlington Heights Rd, Suite 302 Arlington Heights, IL 60004

[Scherverville Office](#) • 833 W Lincoln Hwy, Suite 115W Scherverville, Indiana 46375

[Fox Lake Office](#) • Fox Lake Community Church, 25 W Big Hollow Road Fox lake, Illinois 60020

Email [info@biblicalcounselingcenter.org](mailto:info@biblicalcounselingcenter.org) • Telephone (847) 398-7193

Copyright Biblical Counseling Center © 2010

Permission is granted to reproduce and distribute, in PDF format or paper copies for a group, in its original form.