

Two Cures for Consumption!

Sunday, January 16, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

- It has been said that living within our means & saving money is exercising the muscle of character. Is your “spending character” flabby or firm?
- What is a consumptive lifestyle? It is spending more than you make.
- For the Christian trying to honor the Lord with their wallet, the goal is to spend less than you make. Let’s look at how the Bible addresses this issue.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Man’s way is _____. God’s way is _____
(Proverbs 21:20).
 - a. Man says, “Spend it now,” but God says, “Save.”
 - b. Spending more than you make is linked with foolishness (vs. 20).
 - c. The wise person does not spend all they have. They exercise self-control by saving for future needs or big purchases (Proverbs 6:6-8).

2. Man’s way is _____. God’s way is _____
(1 Timothy 6:6-10, Hebrews 13:5).
 - a. Man says, “I want more” but God says, “Be content.”
 - b. Material possessions and monetary increase do not provide lasting satisfaction (Eccl. 5:10).
 - c. Contentment is God’s plan for the Christian (1 Timothy 6:6-8, Hebrews 13:5).
 - i. Discontentment is a sin and contentment is a spiritual virtue commanded in Scripture.
 - ii. 1 Timothy 6:6 & Hebrews. 13:5 teach that the Christian should know that the most valuable asset in life is Godliness.
 - iii. In verse 7, Paul points out that we will all die empty handed.
 - iv. Vs. 8 teaches that the Christian should be content knowing that their _____ are met.
 - v. Hebrews 13:5 instructs us to “keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have.” When you surrender fully to God as your King, your possessions are his and his joy is yours.
 - d. Man says, “I want riches,” but God says, “Riches are not the purpose of work” (1 Timothy 6:9, Prov. 23:4-5). The purpose of work is not to get rich/wealthy.
 - e. Paul addresses in 1 Timothy 6:9 – “*those that will be rich.*” This implies a striving to be rich. It refers to those in whom this becomes the object of earnest desire and who plan their lives around it. When we set our heart/affections on material possessions we set ourselves up for hurt.

APPLICATION:

- Which of the two points in this lesson do you need to tackle personally? How well are your finances planned? How easily do you slide into the consumption mindset?
- Is your habit of life “spending it up” or spending what is required and saving the rest? What are some smart things to save for?
- Does contentment mean “to settle” in life and not strive for excellence and growth?

TO DO: Work on the CURE FOR CONSUMPTION WORKSHEET (over). The goal of this exercise is to determine if you are leading a lifestyle of consumption.