> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?
> *— 1 John 3:17*

Book: New Testament / 1 John
Topics: materialism, compassion, love, money, neighbor

Interpretation:
In *1 John 3:17* we see a call to compassion and help for those in need. *The Apostle John* tells us that if we have material possessions and we see a brother or sister in need, but we close our hearts to them, we cannot say that God's love dwells in us. This message is a call to love and compassion for others, especially those who are less fortunate than us.

Why is it important to help those in need?

The Bible teaches us that our material possessions and the wealth we possess are not for our own benefit alone, but are to be shared with others.

Jesus tells us in *Luke 12:33, "Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys."* This verse shows us the importance of helping those in need.

Moreover, helping those in need is not only important because of the religious mandate, but also has a positive impact on our lives and our communities. By helping the less fortunate, we build a more just and equal society. We also develop our own empathy and compassion, as well as leadership and teamwork skills.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> I also want the women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, adorning themselves, not with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.
>
> *— 1 Timothy 2:9-10*

Book: New Testament / 1 Timothy
Topics: materialism, beauty, clothing, community, goodness, worship

Interpretation:
This verse asks us to think about our appearance and how we should present it to the world. It can be interpreted in many ways, but in general it tells us that we should dress modestly and simply, avoiding ostentation and excess in our clothing. It is important to note that this does not mean that clothing should necessarily be plain or unattractive, but rather that it should be *appropriate, respectful, and elegant*.

In verse 10, Paul emphasizes that women should demonstrate their godliness through *good works*. It is important to note that Paul does not limit the importance of good works to women only, but rather that this practice should be demonstrated by all believers, regardless of their gender.

Godliness is a term that describes the attitude and behavior of a person living a godly and religious life. *In the Christian context, godliness focuses on worshiping God, honoring His word, and obeying His commands*.

Paul understands that true godliness is not just an outward appearance, but an active practice in our lives, demonstrated through good works. Good works are all those actions that we perform for the benefit of others, in love and service, and based on our principles and convictions. The practice of godliness without good works is meaningless and reveals a religion devoid of content, based on appearances and formalities. True godliness moves us to demonstrate God's love through our actions and behavior.

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> Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.
> — *1 Timothy 6:17*

Book: New Testament / 1 Timothy
Topics: materialism, joy, money, pride

Interpretation:
Verse *1 Timothy 6:17* teaches us that the rich in this world are commanded not to be high-minded or to put their hope in riches, because they are unreliable and transitory. Instead, they are encouraged to trust in God, who is the only one who can provide us with everything we need, and to enjoy His blessings.

How can this verse help the reader?

This verse is helpful to all of us, whether we are rich or poor. It reminds us how important it is not to cling to material things or become depressed when what we think will bring us happiness does not work out. Instead, we are to trust in God, who provides us with everything we need in life.

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> But godliness with contentment is great gain.
> — *1 Timothy 6:6*

Book: New Testament / 1 Timothy
Topics: materialism, contentment, faith, joy

Interpretation:
1 Timothy 6:6 shows us the importance of godliness in our lives. But what is godliness? Godliness is not only religious zeal, but also a life filled with respect and love for God and others. When we live a godly life, we focus on spiritual things and avoid material desires.

Godliness is a great gain because it helps us find the peace and happiness that only God can give. Through godliness, we can experience a deeper love for God and others, which allows us to feel more connected and whole. Moreover, godliness gives us a different outlook on life, where we seek happiness not in material things, but in the presence of God in our lives.

Contentment as a companion to godliness

But godliness is not enough without contentment. What is contentment? Contentment is a feeling of satisfaction with what we have in life, no matter how much or how little. It is finding happiness in what is, not in what could be.

Contentment is important because it helps us live a life of gratitude and humility before God and others. When we are content with what we have, we do not desire what others have, nor do we envy others. Contentment allows us to live a peaceful life without constantly searching for material things that will make us happy.

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> For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.
> *— 1 Timothy 6:7-8*

Book: New Testament / 1 Timothy
Topics: materialism, clothing, contentment, food, heaven, world

Interpretation:
These are Bible verses that challenge us to reflect on the brevity of life. In *1 Timothy 6:7*, the Apostle *Paul* reminds us that when we were born, we brought nothing into the world, and when we die, we can take nothing with us that we have accumulated.

This teaches us the importance of not clinging to material things and appreciating the things that really matter in life, such as spiritual values ??and interpersonal relationships. He also encourages us to recognize the time we have on earth and to make the most of it by doing good and leaving a positive mark on the world.

Also in Paul's letter to his disciple *Timothy*, the Apostle reminds us of the importance of being content with what we have in life. *1 Timothy 6:8* encourages us to be content with our food and shelter, indicating that this will be the key to achieving contentment.

Contentment in the modern world

Today, we seem to be immersed in a culture where we always want more and are never satisfied with what we have. Instead of focusing on our blessings, we focus on what we lack, which makes us unhappy and unfulfilled. These verses challenge us to change our thinking and approach, reminding us that true happiness and contentment come when we are grateful for what we have.

While modern philosophy often tells us that we need more – whether it's more money, more possessions, or more success – to be happy, the biblical truth tells us otherwise. If we have the bare necessities, we should be content, and this helps us focus on our relationship with God and what's truly important in life.

What it means to be content

When we talk about contentment, we don't mean complacency, laziness, or a lack of commitment to growth and improvement in our lives. We are talking about gratitude, appreciating what we have rather than focusing on what we lack. This attitude can help us grow in life if we live with a positive and grateful attitude.

To be satisfied in life, we must be at peace with our basic needs: home, food, shelter, and sustenance. When we learn to appreciate these things and not seek excess, we will become happier. It is important to remember that true happiness does not come from material things, but from a deeper connection with God and with our own lives.

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> Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.
>
> *— 1 Timothy 6:9*

Book: New Testament / 1 Timothy
Topics: materialism, greed, money

Interpretation:
The Bible constantly warns us about the dangers of being obsessed with wealth. In *1 Timothy 6:9, the Apostle Paul* warns us of the negative consequences that can come from allowing greed to control us.

The dangers of desiring to be rich

In this verse, the Apostle Paul tells us that those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare. Temptation is a trap that we can fall into without even realizing it, and a snare is a deception that causes us to do something we should not. In this case, the temptation is the desire for more money, and the snare is the belief that money will bring us happiness.

Furthermore, Paul tells us that the foolish and harmful desires that can arise from this temptation can plunge people into destruction and ruin. “Foolish” are those desires that are meaningless, foolish, and will not bring us any benefit, while “harmful” shows that these desires can negatively affect us and harm our relationships and our lives.

Money does not bring us happiness

Wealth is a blessing if used correctly. However, we should not fall into the trap of believing that money will bring us happiness. The truth is that money cannot give us the complete satisfaction we seek, just like material possessions. Moreover, we must remember that while wealth can provide us with comfort and make life easier, it can also become an obstacle to our relationship with God. Often, the rich are proud of their wealth, which prevents them from humbly approaching God.

The importance of living with financial wisdom

While we must be aware of the dangers of wealth, this does not mean that we should avoid hard work and financial responsibility. The Bible teaches us that we are to use our resources wisely and be good stewards of all that God has given us. This financial wisdom can be developed through planning, saving, and investing. However, we must avoid greed and the temptation to accumulate wealth dishonestly and without any eternal purpose.

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> So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

> — *2 Corinthians 4:18*

Book: New Testament / 2 Corinthians
Topics: materialism, Eternal life, understanding

Interpretation:
In *2 Corinthians 4:18* we can find a profound reflection on our view of life and the things around us. The author tells us that we should not focus only on what we see in our material world, but look beyond the temporary and transitory to what is eternal.

Looking into the unseen

According to the text, we should focus on what we cannot see, which may seem strange at first, since we have always been taught to believe the evidence of our senses and trust what we see in front of us. But *Paul* encourages us to abandon this limited thinking and begin to think about what is beyond what our eyes can perceive.

What surrounds us in the material world is temporary, transitory, and of no value beyond this life, but what we cannot see, what is eternal, has incalculable value and leads us to a more spiritual view of life.

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> Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.
> — *2 Corinthians 6:10*

Book: New Testament / 2 Corinthians
Topics: materialism, joy, money, poverty, reward, sadness

Interpretation:
2 Corinthians 6:10 is an interesting passage that talks about a seeming contradiction we can experience in our lives. On one hand, we can feel sad and poor, but at the same time, we can have joy and wealth.

Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing

The first part of this verse tells us to be joyful despite being sad. It is important to note that this does not mean that we do not feel sadness or pain, but rather that we can experience both emotions at the same time. As Christians, we know that God is with us in our trials and tribulations, and this helps us to feel more confident and to seek joy despite adversity. He is our source of lasting happiness, even in the most difficult circumstances.

Poor, but making many rich

In the second part of this verse, St. *Paul* encourages us to consider how we can be poor, but at the same time enrich ourselves and others. Sometimes we think that wealth is measured only by material means, but the true meaning of wealth is the ability to share what you have with others.

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> All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.
> — *Acts 4:32*

Book: New Testament / Acts
Topics: materialism, community

Interpretation:
Acts 4:32 mentions that *“All the believers were one in heart and mind.”* This means that the believers lived one life, felt and thought together, as if they were one body.

This unity of faith was reflected in the relationships between the members of the early church. They all lived together, prayed together, and shared everything they had as if it were everyone’s property, establishing full fellowship among themselves.

This fellowship extended to material things as well. That is, the believers were willing to share their possessions with others to meet the collective needs. The idea that *“No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own”* means that the members of the early church experienced a change of heart when they accepted *Christ* as their *Savior*.

Unity and unity

This passage reminds us of the importance of fellowship and unity in faith. It is noteworthy that one of the most striking aspects of the relationships of the early believers was their conviction in their faith, their solidarity, and their commitment to others. This sense of unity in faith should characterize our relationships with other believers today.

Our ability to share and help others, especially those who are part of our faith community, should be a reflection of Christ's presence in our lives. *Communion* is a clear expression that we believe the same things, that we are striving for a common goal, and that we care for one another in the love of Christ.

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> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.
> — *Colossians 3:5*

Book: New Testament / Colossians
Topics: materialism, conversion, desires, greed, idols, sin

Interpretation:
The Bible verse from *Colossians 3:5*, which speaks about the importance of putting to death all earthly things in us, calls us to consider the need to leave behind those practices that are incompatible with living according to Christian principles.

What is earthly?

By earthly we could mean that which causes us to do things that are not beneficial to us or to the environment. That is, that which distances us from God and causes us to fall into temptations that lead us astray. This verse mentions some of the practices we may fall into, such as fornication, impurity, disordered passions, evil desires, and greed. It is important to remember that each of us is acutely aware of the practices that prevent us from living in harmony with the will of God.

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> And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person’s envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.
> — *Ecclesiastes 4:4*

Book: Old Testament / Ecclesiastes
Topics: materialism, desires, neighbor, work

Interpretation:
Ecclesiastes 4:4 invites us to reflect on our feelings toward others and to realize that envy leads only to futility and anguish of spirit. We must learn to value our own abilities and achievements without constantly comparing ourselves to others.

Moreover, this verse calls upon us to show compassion to those around us and to avoid envying their successes and accomplishments. We ought to rejoice in the happiness and achievements of others and support one another in our endeavors and dreams. In doing so, we can build a society that is more just, harmonious, and equitable.

It highlights the realization that human activity and skill are often driven by the desire to attain a higher status than others. *Solomon* observed that the wheel of life turns on envy and a spirit of rivalry. The desire for a better home or finer clothing—all of this seemed so hollow and unworthy of a human being created in *the image and likeness of God*.

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> Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.
> — *Ecclesiastes 5:10*

Book: Old Testament / Ecclesiastes
Topics: materialism, greed, money

Interpretation:

One of the most common problems in modern society is an excessive love of money. Modernity and the capitalist world have taught us that the most important thing in life is having a lot of money, but the Bible teaches us something completely different: that the love of money is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 clearly states that those who love money will never be satisfied with it, no matter how much they have, and those who love wealth will never bear true fruit. This teaches us that the love of money or wealth is empty; it cannot satisfy and distances us from what is truly important.

How can we apply this verse to our lives?

Applying this verse to our lives is simple, but not easy. We must learn to value what is truly important, what is truly valuable. Love for God and family, love for our neighbors, honesty and integrity—these are what will bring us true happiness and satisfaction in life. We must learn to put money in its place, viewing it as a means to satisfying our needs, not as an end in itself. We must be grateful for what we have and not desire more and more, as this only leads us to dissatisfaction.

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> As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owners except to feast their eyes on them?
> — *Ecclesiastes 5:11*

Book: Old Testament / Ecclesiastes
Topics: materialism, desires, money

Interpretation:
Ecclesiastes 5:11 discusses how material goods can multiply, but instead of benefiting their owner, they can be consumed by large numbers of people. In other words, the author of Ecclesiastes uses this verse to emphasize the futility of wealth.

Context explanation

The Book of Ecclesiastes focuses on the ephemerality of life and the reality of death. The author, attributed to *Solomon*, reflects on the futility of pursuing happiness and wisdom through wealth and the possession of material goods. In light of this, verse 5:11 invites us to reflect on how even acquired material goods can lose their value or provide no significant benefit.

The temptation of wealth

This verse also highlights the temptation associated with wealth and material goods. It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that possessing certain goods will make us happy or provide financial security and stability. However, the author of Ecclesiastes reminds us that even the accumulation of possessions may not bring us significant benefits or long-term value.

The value of relationships

The Bible verse *Ecclesiastes 5:11* can also teach us the value of relationships. Instead of focusing on the accumulation of possessions, the author invites us to reflect on the importance of human relationships and how these relationships can provide lasting and meaningful value in our lives.

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> Everyone comes naked from their mother’s womb, and as everyone comes, so they depart. They take nothing from their toil that they can carry in their hands.
>
> *— Ecclesiastes 5:15*

Book: Old Testament / Ecclesiastes
Topics: materialism, greed, heaven

Interpretation:
The book of Ecclesiastes is known for its philosophical reflections on life. Verse 15 of chapter 5, which speaks of our mortality, does not shy away from this topic.

Our fleeting existence on earth

In this verse, the author reminds us that our presence in this world is fleeting and ephemeral. We all came into this world naked and defenseless, and we will leave it the same. Therefore, we must make the most of our time on earth, without hiding from ourselves the reality of our mortality. Furthermore, the author reminds us that none of our possessions or achievements will follow us into the next world. Whatever wealth and property we acquire in life, it will all remain here on earth. Therefore, we must ask ourselves: What is the meaning of our lives? What will we leave behind in this world when we pass away?

A call to reflect on what's truly important

Throughout our lives, we tend to worry about trivial and fleeting things, losing sight of what's truly important. This verse reminds us of the importance of reflecting on our lives and our actions. Are we doing the right thing? Are we giving our best? It calls us to reflect on what's truly important and to value those around us. Instead of worrying about our possessions or accumulated power, we should focus on our own happiness and the happiness of those around us.

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> You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.
> *— Exodus 20:17*

Book: Old Testament / Exodus
Topics: materialism, greed, law, neighbor

Interpretation:
The commandment in *Exodus 20:17* is the last of the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. This commandment not only prohibits coveting another's possessions but also teaches us an important lesson about gratitude and life satisfaction.

Envy: what does It mean?

Before delving into the meaning of this commandment, it's important to understand the meaning of the word "envy." The term "envy" denotes a strong desire to possess something belonging to another person. This applies not only to material goods but also to relationships and social status.

The danger of greed

Greed can be dangerous because it can lead us to make reckless decisions and harm others to satisfy our desires. Desire for something else can lead to envy and jealousy, which can lead to malicious behavior and harmful actions. Furthermore, greed never satisfies us. No matter how many things a person has, there will always be something they desire more of. Greed is like an incurable disease, and it can consume our lives and relationships.

Gratitude and contentment

The commandment "thou shalt not covet" teaches us the importance of gratitude and contentment. Instead of focusing on what we don't have, we should focus on what we do have. We must learn to appreciate and be grateful for the blessings God has given us and work to improve our lives, rather than envying others.

Gratitude and contentment also help us maintain proper perspective. Often, when we focus on what we don't have, we lose sight of our advantages and feel dissatisfied and unhappy. But when we are grateful for what we do have, we can clearly see our accomplishments and view the world more positively.

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> Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”
> *— Hebrews 13:5*

Book: New Testament / Hebrews
Topics: materialism, contentment, debt, money, trust

Interpretation:
Hebrews 13:5 teaches us the importance of living without covetousness, that is, without being overly obsessed with money or material possessions. Instead, we are to be content with what we have in the present moment, trusting that God will not leave us or forsake us in the difficulties of life.

This passage of Scripture encourages us to trust God in every moment of our lives, even in difficult times when it is easy to think that our circumstances are unchangeable and we cannot imagine or even believe that we can move forward.

A teaching on gratitude

It is important to be grateful for what we have in our lives. By doing so, we focus on what we have rather than what we lack. This brings us greater happiness and peace. Gratitude allows us to have a more positive outlook and to appreciate the things around us more. It also helps us to have a more humble attitude and to recognize that the gifts in our lives are a product of divine love.

We often focus on what we don't have, what we're missing, what we're craving. But in doing so, we can become selfish, creating a sense of dissatisfaction that prevents us from appreciating what we truly consider to be life's gifts.

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> When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me.
> — *Hosea 13:6*

Book: Old Testament / Hosea
Topics: materialism, dependence, food, pride

Interpretation:
Hosea is one of the twelve prophets of the *Old Testament*. His book contains many reflections on the love, justice, and mercy of God. In this particular verse, Hosea is talking about the people of Israel and how they turned away from God.

Hosea 13:6 is a reminder of how material satisfaction can lead to arrogance and forgetfulness of God. This verse reminds us that when we meet our basic needs, such as food and water, it is easy to forget that these are gifts from God. Instead of thanking God for His blessings, we often become arrogant and forget about Him.

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> I say to myself, “The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.”
> — *Lamentations 3:24*

Book: Old Testament / Lamentations
Topics: materialism, acknowledging, hope

Interpretation:

Lamentations 3:24 is a declaration of hope in God and His providence for those who trust in Him. Often in our lives we face difficult situations that can make us feel hopeless, cast into darkness, without any help or hope. However, this verse reminds us that in the midst of our struggles, *God is our portion, and we are to place our hope in Him*.

It is very important to understand that our hope is not to be placed in the circumstances around us, nor in our personal abilities or resources, but in God Himself. He is our portion, the only thing we truly need to find peace and contentment in the midst of any adversity.

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> Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”
> *— Luke 12:15*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: materialism, contentment, greed, money

Interpretation:
In Luke 12:15, Jesus warns his disciples about greed, the tendency to focus on the accumulation of wealth and material possessions. Jesus tells them to beware of all greed, emphasizing that a person’s life is not made up of the abundance of goods they possess. In other words, Jesus is teaching them that true happiness and meaning in life are not found in the accumulation of material goods, but in something deeper.

Jesus encourages us to look for deeper things, rather than focusing solely on material things. He invites us to look for happiness and fulfillment in other places, such as meaningful relationships, spirituality, and helping others. Having material goods is not necessarily a bad thing, but it is important not to focus our entire attention and life on them and not let them define us.

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> John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”
> — *Luke 3:11*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: materialism, clothing, food, giving, neighbor, poverty

Interpretation:
The Gospel of Luke introduces us to the story of *John the Baptist*, who called the multitudes to repent of their sins and be baptized in the Jordan River. In this context, *verse 3:11* is an expression of the Christian ethic, which focuses on helping and being generous to those who are most in need.

The importance of sharing

John the Baptist’s call for help and fellowship should not be underestimated or ignored. In this verse, we are reminded that it is our responsibility to share with those in need. Sharing is more than just giving alms or doing charity, it is essentially an attitude we should adopt towards those who are less fortunate. It is an expression of love and compassion for our fellow man.

In today’s society, we often tend to focus on our own affairs and concerns. However, John the Baptist’s call reminds us that community and the well-being of others are equally important, and we should value them equally. It is therefore vital to consider everything we can offer to society, from skills and resources to simple acts of caring and attention.

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> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?
> — *Mark 8:36*

Book: New Testament / Mark
Topics: materialism, greed, life, world

Interpretation:

At first glance, *Mark 8:36* may make us think about the triviality of earthly things and the need to place greater emphasis on spiritual things. But what does this verse really mean to us and how can we apply it to our lives?

Gain the world, lose the soul

The question *Jesus* asks in this verse is crystal clear. In other words, what value do material possessions and possessions have if we fail to take care of the most important thing we have: *our soul?*

It is easy to fall into the trap of overvaluing what we have in the material world, thinking that it will bring us the happiness and fulfillment we desire. But if we neglect our soul and do not place the proper value on our spiritual life, we will not find the true peace and happiness we seek.

The value of our soul

Jesus' words in this verse show us the true value of our soul. It is the most important thing we have, and we should treasure it with all our being. It is the soul that allows us to connect with the divine, with God, and find our purpose in life.

Having a soul distinguishes us from other living beings and makes us special, capable of making decisions and living a full and meaningful life. Therefore, we must pay attention to what is happening in our soul, take care of it and ensure that it is in peace and harmony with our life and the world around us.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?
> — *Matthew 16:26*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: materialism, life, soul, world

Interpretation:

Before we dive into the teaching of *Matthew 16:26*, it is important to understand the context in which it is said. In this passage, *Jesus* asks His disciples who they think He is. *Peter* responds that *He is the Messiah, the Son of the living God*. It is then that Jesus tells him that He will build His Church on this rock and declares His authority to bind and loose on earth and in heaven.

The meaning of this verse

The phrase, *"What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"* is an important teaching of Jesus. He reminds us that life is not about amassing wealth or seeking fame, power, or recognition. These things are temporary and perishable and will not bring us the true happiness or inner peace we seek.

The soul, on the other hand, is eternal and of inestimable value. We must care for it and nourish it, protecting it from sin and corruption. When we lose our soul, we lose our essence, our identity as children of God and our purpose in life.

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> Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."
> — *Matthew 19:21*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: materialism, Blameless, following, giving, heaven, Jesus

Interpretation:
Matthew 19:21 is one *of Jesus'* most famous teachings. Here, Jesus is addressing a rich young ruler who asks Him what he needs to do to gain eternal life. Jesus tells him to keep the commandments, but then makes a shocking statement.

Jesus tells the rich young ruler that if he really wants to be perfect, he must get rid of all his material possessions and follow Him. This may seem like a lot, but it's important to remember that Jesus is not telling us all to do the same thing. Instead, He is addressing a man who was very attached to his possessions and giving him a personalized lesson on what he needs to do to follow Jesus.

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> Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.
> — *Matthew 6:19-20*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: materialism, greed, heaven

Interpretation:
Matthew 6:19-20 tells us not to store up wealth on earth because it is temporary. When we look at these verses more closely, it becomes clear that *Jesus* is not against material possessions, but rather is calling us not to focus all of our energy and attention on them. We must consider that these earthly things are fleeting and will not last forever, meaning that if we make them the center of our lives, we will experience disappointment and loss.

Wealth of the earth

Accumulating wealth from the earth is a practice that many consider necessary to live comfortably in the modern world. However, compulsively acquiring material goods can lead to a life of stress and anxiety, as it requires constant work to maintain such a lifestyle. Moreover, these assets can disappear in the blink of an eye, whether due to a natural disaster or theft.

Treasures in heaven

Unlike earthly riches, these verses call us to store up treasures in heaven. What are these treasures and how can we obtain them? Instead of focusing on material things, we should focus on loving God and others, practicing humility and generosity, and living according to biblical principles. In this way, we will be investing in our eternal future rather than accumulating possessions that will perish.

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> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
> — *Matthew 6:21*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: materialism, desires, heart, money

Interpretation:
Matthew 6:21 is a verse that reminds us of the importance of our earthly treasures and how they impact our spiritual lives. In this verse, *Jesus* warns us that our heart will follow our treasures, meaning that our devotion, energy, and time will be directed toward what we consider most valuable in life. But what are our treasures? How can we identify them and make sure our lives are aligned with what God wants for us?

First, it is important to understand that our treasures can be anything we consider valuable, whether material or non-material. This includes our possessions, our careers, our relationships, and our personal dreams and desires. Jesus is not telling us to give up everything we consider valuable, but rather to make sure that our first priority is Him and His Kingdom, and that everything else has its proper place in our lives.

For many of us, identifying our treasures can be a difficult process. How do we know what we consider most valuable in life? One way to know this is to observe our daily habits and how we use our time and energy. Do we spend most of our days working on our careers? Or do we devote time to developing our faith and serving others? Are we focused on accumulating material wealth or are we seeking to build meaningful relationships with family and friends?

Once we recognize our treasures, it is important to ask ourselves if they are in alignment with the values ??and principles God teaches us in *His Word*. Are we pursuing fame and fortune at any cost, even if it means hurting others or betraying our principles? Or are we seeking to follow God's will in our decisions and actions, even if it means giving up our personal desires?

The truth is that while we cannot avoid treasures in this life, we can ensure that they are aligned with God and His Kingdom. In fact, our position regarding our treasures reflects to whom we are loyal. We must be responsible with what we have and consider it a priority in life because in the end all material things will remain on earth, but what truly surpasses *is our inheritance in Christ*.

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> No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.
>
> — *Matthew 6:24*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: materialism, debt, greed, money, serving

Interpretation:
In today’s society, we are constantly being driven by the need to achieve wealth and success in life. The intense competition for money and material possessions often causes us to forget the fundamental truth that this Bible verse from *Matthew 6:24* offers.

The meaning of the verse

The teaching of this verse is clear: we can only serve one master, material or spiritual. Serving wealth distances us from God, and this leads us to make decisions that harm our values ??and distance us from true happiness.

The Bible teaches us that God is the source of all goodness and that serving Him is the path to happiness, peace, and harmony in our lives. While money and material possessions may bring us temporary happiness and pleasure, they cannot satisfy our spiritual or emotional needs.

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> Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.
>
> — *Proverbs 11:4*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: materialism, money, punishment, righteousness

Interpretation:

Proverbs 11:4 contains an important message that we must constantly remember in our daily lives. It is that no amount of wealth or material possessions can protect or save us when we face God's wrath and justice.

This saying reflects on the futility of wealth and the importance of living a righteous life. If we analyze this proverb carefully, we will notice that it actually tells us two different things: on the one hand, the futility of wealth, and on the other, the importance of righteousness.

The futility of wealth

As for the first part of the parable, it tells us that wealth is worthless in the face of God's wrath. In other words, no matter how much money or material possessions we accumulate, if we are not righteous and do not obey God's will, it will all lose its value in the face of God's justice.

The importance of justice

The second part of the parable shows us the value of righteousness before God. Although wealth cannot bring prosperity to a person, righteousness can be a means of salvation from death.

Moreover, it is important to realize that righteousness includes not only external actions, but also internal ones. This means that in order to be considered righteous, we must not only perform certain specific actions, but also have a righteous attitude in our hearts.

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> A person's riches may ransom their life, but the poor cannot respond to threatening rebukes.
>
> — *Proverbs 13:8*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: materialism, fear, money, poverty

Interpretation:
This verse from *Proverbs 13:8* makes a clear connection between wealth and a person's life. This verse suggests that wealth can be a lifeline in dangerous times. On the other hand, it also shows us that the poor are less likely to pay attention to threats.

The importance of wealth

Wealth is important to our lives because it provides us with security and stability. If we have a good supply of food, a safe place to live, and access to health care, we will be less vulnerable to dangers that may affect our lives.

Moreover, we can also protect ourselves from external threats by investing in safety measures. Wealth gives us insurance that is invaluable in times of crisis.

The poor and threats

The rest of this verse says that the poor do not listen to threats. This suggests that the poor are more likely to ignore threats made to them by others. Poverty can make us more vulnerable and unable to prevent the dangers we face.

Lack of resources can make it difficult to buy food and access health care, so the poor may have a harder time protecting their lives than the rich.

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> Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil.
> — *Proverbs 15:16*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: materialism, awe, money

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs is known for its wise advice on how to live a meaningful life in alignment with God’s will. In particular, verse 16 of chapter 15 teaches us an unforgettable lesson about what is truly important in life.

In a society where material wealth is often the standard for measuring success and happiness, this verse challenges us to reflect on the ephemeral nature of money and possessions. While having money and financial security can provide us with prosperity and ease in life, real wealth is found in the intangible.

"The fear of the Lord" refers to a life of obedience to God, a life in which love and respect for Him are the foundation of all our decisions and actions. This verse reminds us that it is better to live a life full of God's love and grace than to have great wealth and inner turbulence that prevents us from enjoying it.

When we live in the fear of God, we are at peace with ourselves and with the world. No matter how meager our material resources, we can trust in God's provision and care in all situations.

Moreover, this world allows us to be content with what we have, which does not mean submission or lack of ambition, but rather recognition *that true happiness is found not in the things we possess, but in our relationship with God*.

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> How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver!
> — *Proverbs 16:16*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: materialism, money, wisdom

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs in the Bible is widely known for its wise advice on how to live righteously and justly. *Proverbs 16:16* says that wisdom is better than fine gold, and understanding is better than silver.

What is wisdom?

Wisdom is defined as the ability to apply knowledge effectively and practically. It is not just knowing things, but also being able to apply them in everyday life. Wisdom goes beyond simply having information; it includes understanding, insight, and the ability to make smart decisions.

Wisdom and wealth

This verse compares wisdom to fine gold and understanding to silver. The idea is that wisdom is something very valuable, much more valuable than any material possession. People often pursue luxury and wealth, but this verse encourages us to focus on something much more important: wisdom.

How can we gain wisdom

Wisdom is not acquired overnight, but is a gradual process. The Bible tells us that wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord *(Proverbs 1:7)*. It is important to realize that God is the source of all wisdom, and that to gain wisdom, we must seek Him. This includes having a close relationship with God, reading and studying the Bible, and praying.

We can also gain wisdom through experience. Life presents us with different situations, and we can learn from them, both from successes and failures. We can also gain wisdom from other people, especially those who are older and more experienced than us.

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> The wealth of the rich is their fortified city; they imagine it a wall too high to scale.
>
> — *Proverbs 18:11*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: materialism, money

Interpretation:
The Book of Proverbs is an inexhaustible source of wisdom for all who seek truth and justice. Its teachings are applicable to every time, culture, and context in which we find ourselves. One of the most prominent verses in this book is *Proverbs 18:11*, which speaks of the importance of wealth for some people and how they view it as power.

Riches of the rich

Proverbs 18:11 speaks of how a rich person might view their wealth, that for some people, wealth is a safe haven where they can find refuge from the outside world. It's important to note that the verse doesn't claim that this is the way a rich person thinks; it simply reflects how some people view their possessions. In other words, the verse is an observation about behavior some people may exhibit.

Reflections on wealth

Wealth may be an important aspect of many people's lives, but it's not the most important. For some, accumulating wealth becomes so obsessive that they can neglect other important aspects of life.

In this sense, it's important to remember that material goods and wealth are not the source of happiness and satisfaction in life. On the contrary, true happiness lies in things that can't be bought, such as meaningful relationships, mental health, and personal development.

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> All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.
> *— Proverbs 21:26*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: materialism, desires, giving, greed

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs is one of the most well-known and beloved books in the Bible. Within it, we can find many valuable teachings that help us understand the wisdom and justice that underlie biblical principles. *Proverbs 21:26* is no exception, offering us reflections on greed and justice.

A greedy man is greedy all day long

The verse begins by talking about a greedy man who is eager to accumulate material wealth and is willing to do anything to achieve this goal. The text says that this man covets something all day long, which suggests that he has no rest in his quest to achieve more wealth. This obsession with accumulating material goods can become a real form of slavery.

The concept of greed is not new in the Bible. In *the New Testament*, we find *Jesus* teaching us the futility of accumulating material wealth and how these things distract us from what is truly important. In *Matthew 6:24, Jesus* says, *“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”*

The righteous give without holding back his hand

On the other hand, the verse tells us about the righteous. This person is not selfish or greedy. Instead, their attitude toward money and possessions is different. The verse says that the righteous give

without holding back his hand, which suggests that this person is willing to help others and share what he has.

This unselfish attitude toward money and possessions is also what Jesus recommended for us in the New Testament. In *Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus* tells us that we should focus on spiritual riches, not material ones. He says: *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

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> A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.
>
> *— Proverbs 22:1*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: materialism, money, relationships

Interpretation:
A good name is linked to a person's reputation. It's the opinion others have of you and your behavior in society. One could say that a good name is the result of your actions and their impact on the community in which you live.

In this verse, the Bible tells us that a good name is much more valuable than wealth. This may seem counterintuitive to some, as we live in a society where money and the accumulation of material goods are highly valued. However, this verse tells us that being respected and loved is much more valuable than having a lot of money.

Why is having a good name important?

A good name provides many benefits in life. When you are respected and value others, you have a much better chance of success at work, in your interpersonal relationships, and in society as a whole. Moreover, a good name also signifies that you are an ethical and honest person, which is crucial for building a just and equal society.

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> Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.
> — *Proverbs 23:5*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: materialism, desires, money

Interpretation:
The fifth verse of Proverbs 23 is a clear warning about wealth and the temptations it brings. The biblical author reminds us to be wary of wealth, as it can easily take over our lives and even cause us to forget our values ??and principles.

Interpretation of the Bible verse

One possible interpretation of this verse is that material wealth is illusory and prevents us from achieving our true goals in life. The comparison of wealth to eagles' wings suggests that wealth is unstable and can disappear at any moment. The word "heaven" is used metaphorically to express the idea that wealth and material possessions have no real value or significance in our spiritual journey.

Furthermore, it is important to remember that the pursuit of wealth and the accumulation of possessions can not only distract us from our goals but also lead to greed and stinginess. Therefore, this verse also warns us of the dangers of unhealthy ambition.

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> Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.
> — *Proverbs 30:8*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: materialism, food, lying, money, poverty, reliability

Interpretation:
In the book of Proverbs, *Agur* makes a sincere and humble request to God in chapter 30, verse 8. In this verse, Agur asks the Lord to keep him from vanity and lies and to give him only the necessities of life, which is daily sustenance.

Vanity and lies

Vanity and lies are two terms that are mentioned together many times in the Bible. Some people think that vanity and lies in everyday life are the shortest path to reaching the top. However, Agur shows in this verse that this attitude is not typical for those who are seeking to live a righteous life in the eyes of God.

It is important to remember that God is a God of truth, and everything He gives us is based on truth, not lies. Vanity causes us to desire things that are not necessary and to seek to impress others, which can ultimately lead us away from the path of God.

Poverty and wealth

This verse also talks about the importance of balance in our lives, which is especially important when it comes to wealth. Agur asks God to grant him neither poverty nor wealth, but to give him only what he needs to live.

It is important to note that poverty and wealth can affect our relationship with God. Poverty can make us feel powerless and dependent on others, while wealth can make us rely on ourselves and forget God. By asking God to give us only the food we need, Agur shows his trust in God and his willingness to always seek Him.

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