

Wednesday's Wisdom

a weekly short note from Mike Minear

The Diamond or the Box

Greg Kline

“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works” (Matthew 16:26-27).

Undoubtedly, everyone that professes to be a Christian would openly confess our souls are far more valuable than anything else on this earth, our earthly bodies included. Matthew 10:37 says that we are to love God more than even our own father and mother. While it's easy to claim to value our soul more than fleshly passions and desires is that the way we really *act*?

I once heard the illustration given, of a man who bought his soon-to-be fiance a beautiful diamond ring, which of course came in a nice, but very plain container. The man, feeling inadequate about the outward appearance of the box decided to raise the aesthetic appeal of the box. Soon, his very basic upgrades turned to luxurious patterns on the box, the ring remaining safe and guarded on the inside. When all was said and done, he had spent almost the same amount on the decorations of the box as he did the ring, which is all that truly mattered to begin with.

Likewise today as Christians we realize that our true value is our souls, but we get caught up with the things of this world, ignoring the command of Romans 12:1-2. While there is certainly nothing wrong enjoying some of the material blessings of God in this world, we *must* realize we run the risk of being distracted from our true calling, which is to obey God and preach the word (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16).

Too often we are too concerned with our own “box”, which is our human body. We wash the box, exercise the box, rest the box, and sometimes even worry and stress over simply the appearance of it. As ludicrous as that sounds, if we fail to realize that our bodies are simply a shell, we will worry incessantly about things of this earth, which WILL detract from our devotion to Christ.

In Luke 12:22-23 Jesus says “...*Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing.*” It is a **command** from God that must **not** be ignored.

Unfortunately, earthly concerns are a major stumbling block to many people, Christians and unbelievers alike. The consummate worry has set too many people on the path for the “wide gate...that leads to destruction” (Matthew 7:13)

In Luke 12:13-21 we see the ultimate example of the foolishness of earthly worry and obsession in the form of the rich man who tore down his barns and built larger ones so “*I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry”*” (vs.19).

If we truly wish to be Christians (by definition followers of Christ) we must “*seek first the kingdom of God*”, Matthew 6:33. Otherwise, we face the wrath of God as the rich fool did in Luke 12:20-21 and receive the same eternal condemnation of those who “lay up treasure for himself” (vs.21).

Note: Gregory Kline is son of Ralph & Vickie Kline . (Ralph serves as an elder at our congregation). Gregory is in first year of Florida College. This is an article he wrote at a congregation he served an internship with last summer. It is good to see our children not only following the Lord's will, but desiring to serve him.