

Is your fulfillment in the blessings of life, or the Blessor (God)?

In the book of Nehemiah, chapter 9, verse 35, Ezra had just read the Book of the Law of Moses to the Israelites and upon hearing the law they confessed their sin: "Even while they were in the kingdom enjoying Your great goodness to them in the spacious and fertile land You gave them, they did not serve You or turn from their evil ways".

As I ponder these words, I see a direct parallel to our lives today. God has blessed this nation and its people far beyond that which we deserve, and yet we walk far from Him. Some would say that this only applies to unbelievers. However, it is my observation that many believers are more desirous of being blessed than being a blessing to God. We want the blessings of God, but do not want to become totally committed to Him. In other words, we have become a perverse and selfish people desiring the blessings of God without accountability or responsibility.

In the parable of the rich fool in [Luke 12:13-21], Jesus told the crowd to "Be on their guard against all kinds of greed." He also said "A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." He warned them that if their possessions were more important than their relationship with Him that He would demand their lives. He said, "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich towards God."

We have become slaves of our own selfishness (desiring to please ourselves vs. God). It is no wonder that many who are unsaved struggle in making a commitment to Jesus Christ when they observe God's people being preoccupied with self and the material blessings of this world. The following scriptures exhort us as to where our focus should be and Who should be at the center of our fulfillment.

[1 John 2:15] "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

[1 Timothy 6:10] "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

[1 Timothy 6:17] "Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy."

[Matthew 6:24] "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God (Blessor) and money (blessing)."

We must all turn from our evil ways and attachments to the things of this world and seek our fulfillment from God alone.