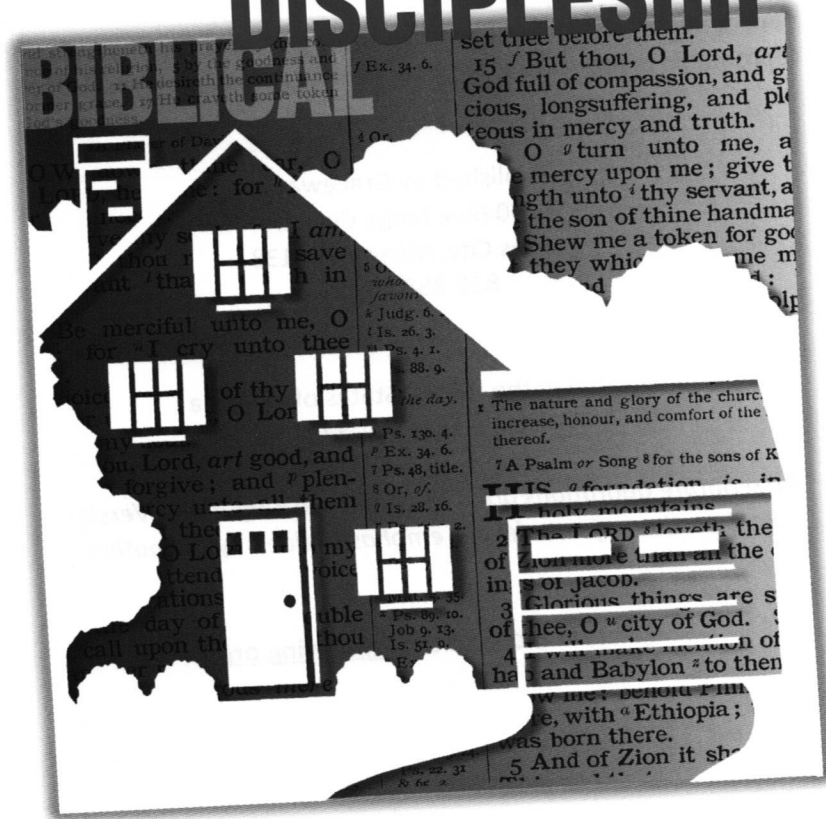


MONEY AND POSSESSIONS

11

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LESSON 11: MONEY AND POSSESSIONS IN GENERAL

“What Should Be My Attitude Toward Money and Possessions?”

One of the greatest temptations we face as Christians in America is the tremendous materialism in our culture. We are geared to think success is measured by the abundance of our material wealth. In reality, a man's success is measured by fulfilling God's plan for his life as we saw in a previous lesson.

The Bible has a great deal to say about your attitude toward physical possessions. The object of this lesson is to determine how God would have you deal with this matter in light of biblical principles.

- I. Wealth, or the lack of it, does not affect your relationship with God.
 - A. Money is not the issue, but rather your attitude toward money.
 1. The Bible does **NOT** say money is the root of all evil. It says "...the **LOVE** of money is the root of all evil..."

1 Timothy 6:10

2. This is very important to understand. Spirituality is **NOT** measured by either the abundance **OR** lack of material goods. Nowhere in the Bible does God specifically condemn anyone simply for having money. Instead, he deals with their heart attitude.

B. Money was not a problem for key biblical characters who were wealthy.

1. Solomon was the wealthiest man in history, yet observe his conclusion of this matter.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

2. Job was the wealthiest man of his day (*Job 1:3*), yet when all his wealth was gone, observe his attitude.

Job 1:20-22

3. Even the Lord Jesus Christ was accompanied by a group of wealthy women who materially provided for Him.

Luke 8:1-3; John 12:3

II. Wealth, or the lack of it, can interfere with your relationship with God when you make that your focus.

- A. You must trust in God rather than wealth or possessions.

Mark 10:23-27; Proverbs 11:4, 28

- B. You must set your affection on heavenly treasures rather than earthly possessions.

Matthew 6:19-21; Colossians 3:1-4

- C. You must not measure your own or another's spiritual walk by material possessions.

Luke 12:15; 1 Samuel 16:7

- D. You must not set your objective in life to earn as much money as possible.

Proverbs 23:4; Ecclesiastes 5:10-12

- E. You must trust God to provide for your needs rather than think you can provide for yourself.

Philippians 4:19; Deuteronomy 8:10-18

III. Wealth, or the lack of it, demands proper biblical attitudes.

- A. BE CONTENT with what you have.

* To be content is not to grudgingly resign yourself to accept your state. Being content is to realize whatever you have been given is a blessing and to rest, satisfied in God's provision. This is the most important attitude you can possess toward wealth and possessions.

1. We are to be content with our possessions.

Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:8

2. We are to be content in whatever state we find ourselves, resting in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:11 – Note that Paul wrote these words while in jail!

- B. Realize there are many things far more important than money and which money cannot buy.

1. Wisdom.

Proverbs 16:16

2. A righteous life.

Proverbs 28:6, 16:8; Psalm 37:16

3. A good night's sleep.

Ecclesiastes 5:12

4. God's Word.

Psalm 119:14, 72, 127

5. Good health.

Luke 8:43

6. Quietness and peace.

Ecclesiastes 4:6; Proverbs 15:16, 17:1

C. Don't forget God if He blesses you physically.

*Deuteronomy 6:10-12; Proverbs 30:7-9;
Revelation 3:17*

D. Realize if God takes all your wealth away, your relationship with Him should be the same.

Job 1:20-22

- E. Don't be envious of someone else's wealth.

Psalm 49:16-17; Exodus 20:17

- F. Stay away from "get rich quick" schemes.

Proverbs 20:21, 28:20, 22

- G. Realize the media and advertising have a tremendously negative, materialistic influence on you. Guard yourself. Make sure your major desires are spiritual instead of physical.

- H. Strike a proper balance in your attitude toward money and possessions.

- 1. *Proverbs 11:1* says, "A false balance is abomination to the Lord..."

- a. The same Bible that says not to worry about your physical provisions in *Matthew 6:25-34* also says in *I Timothy 5:8* if a man doesn't provide for his family he is worse than an infidel.

b. The same Bible that says "...the love of money is the root of all evil..." also says "...the laborer is worthy of his reward." I Timothy 5:17-18.

2. These are not contradictory statements, but balancing principles to show you how to handle physical possessions.

V. Basic question: What will God provide for me?

1. God promises to provide your **NEEDS**.

Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:25-34

2. Those **NEEDS** will be physical as well as spiritual.

3. You must discern between **NEEDS** and **WANTS**. This is a very difficult thing to do, especially in our society.

Compare the following verses on needs and wants:

a. Needs – *James 2:15-16; Hebrews 4:15-16; Mark 2:25*

b. Wants – *Psalm 23:1; Proverbs 13:25; Philippians 4:11; James 1:4*

NOTES

b. The same Bible that says "...the love of money is the root of all evil..." also says "...the laborer is worthy of his reward..."
 1 Timothy 2:17-18

2. These are not contradictory statements, but balancing principles to show you how to handle physical possessions.

3. Basic question: What will God provide for me?

1. God promises to provide your NEEDS

Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:33-34

2. These NEEDS will be physical as well as spiritual.

3. You must discern between NEEDS and WANTS. This is a very difficult thing to do, especially in our society.

Compare the following verses on needs and wants:

a. Needs - James 2:25 in Hebrews 4:15-16; Mark 5:27

b. Wants - Psalm 137; Proverbs 13:25; Philippians 4:11; James 1:4

MONEY & POSSESSIONS

Lesson # 11

1. Does the amount of wealth you have determine whether or not God is pleased with you? _____
Briefly explain.

2. What can we learn about man and money from *1 Timothy 6:10*?

3. Two men in the Bible who were very wealthy had an attitude that was uncommon among others. What was so different about their attitude concerning wealth?
 - A. Solomon

 - B. Job

4. List five wrong attitudes toward money that will interfere with your relationship with God. Give a scripture verse that helps you best understand each wrong attitude.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

5. What is the most important attitude you should develop toward physical possessions?

6. What does the apostle Paul teach us through the attitude displayed in the following verses?

A. *Hebrews 13:5*

B. *I Timothy 6:8*

C. *Philippians 4:11*

7. List six important things that money cannot buy and that only God can give you.

A.

B.

C.

D.

What does the apostle Paul teach us through the attitude displayed in the following verses?

E.

A. Hebrews 13:2

F.

B. 1 Timothy 6:8

8. List five other attitudes you should develop toward money and physical possessions.

C. Philippians 4:7

A.

List six important things that money cannot buy and that only God can give you.

B.

A.

C.

B.

D.

C.

E.

D.

9. God promises to provide your needs, not necessarily your _____ . Your needs are both _____ as well as _____. Give some examples of your needs and wants. Use the verses provided for each on page 7 as well as your own personal studies.

Needs:

Wants:

10. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key memory verses:

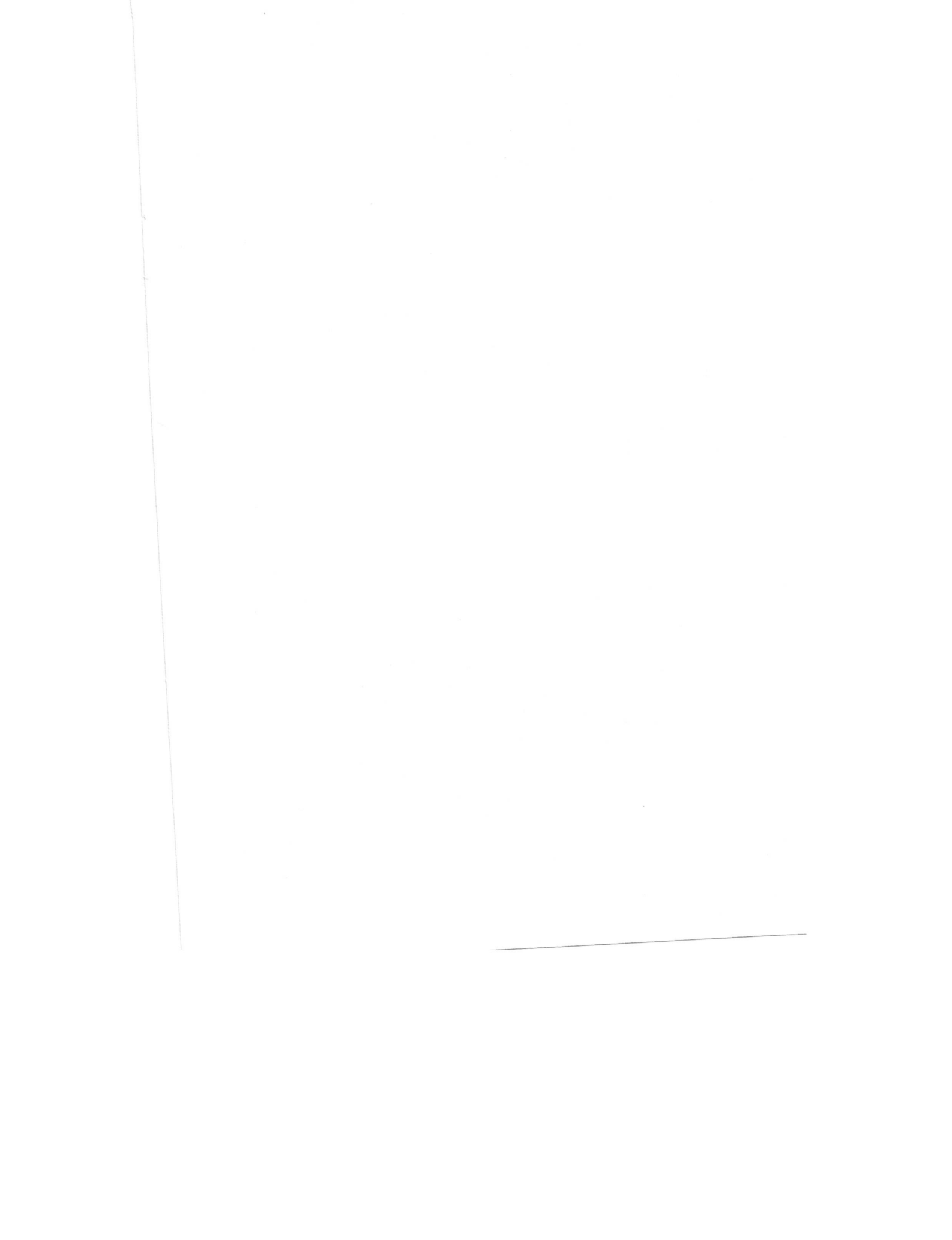
*Philippians 4:11; Philippians 4:19;
Colossians 3:2*

NOTE: Some common attitudes regarding physical possessions are:

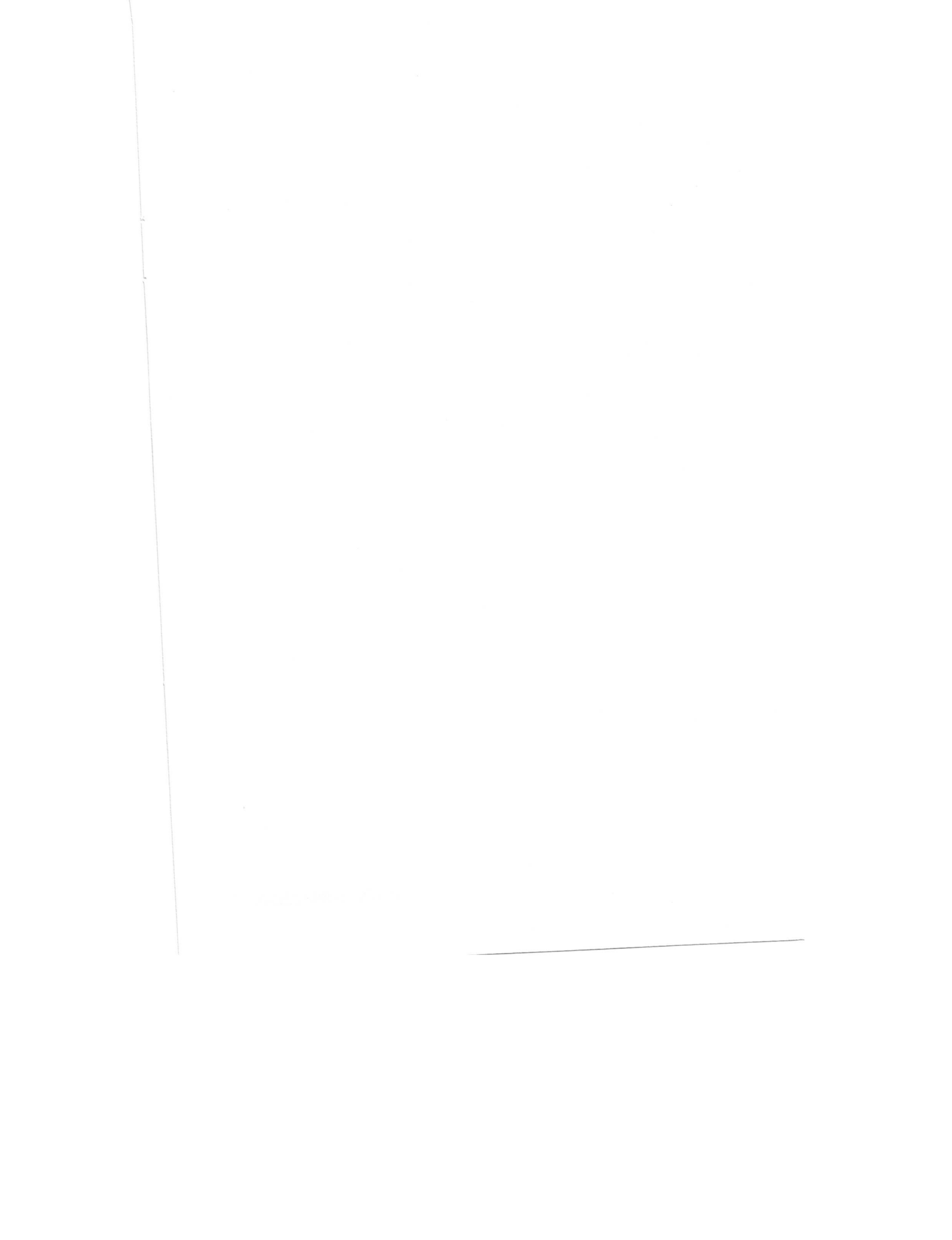
1. If you get enough material wealth, you will be satisfied.
2. God must be pleased with wealthy people for Him to have blessed them so much.
3. A wealthy person must have violated God's laws to obtain his wealth.
4. Your worth as a person is measured by your material wealth.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand these attitudes are false and why.

→Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.







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