



I Timothy 6:6-10 (GW)

A godly life brings huge profits to people who are content with what they have. ⁷ We didn't bring anything into the world, and we can't take anything out of it. ⁸ As long as we have food and clothes, we should be satisfied.

⁹ But people who want to get rich keep falling into temptation. They are trapped by many stupid and harmful desires which drown them in destruction and ruin. ¹⁰ Certainly, the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people who have set their hearts on getting rich have wandered away from the Christian faith and have caused themselves a lot of grief.

Two Dangers When Talking About Stuff and Money:

Danger #1: _____

(Jesus said,) Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.

Matthew 7:1-2 (NRSV)

Danger #2: _____

An ascetic is someone who allows
himself or herself few material possessions.

(Jesus said,) ...do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear ...But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:25, 33 (NRSV)

The American Dream

[Americans] “are extremely eager in the pursuit of material pleasures and are always discontented with the position that they occupy... They think about nothing but ways of changing

their lot and bettering it ... One usually finds that the love of money is either the chief or a secondary motive at the bottom of everything the Americans do.”

-Alexis de Tocqueville (19th century)

The American Nightmare

The American Dream has turned into the American Nightmare due to two viruses:

Virus #1: _____

Definition: 1. The bloated, sluggish, and unfulfilled feeling that results from efforts to keep up with the Joneses. 2. An epidemic of stress, overwork, waste, and indebtedness caused by dogged pursuit of the American Dream. 3. An unsustainable addiction to economic growth.

Virus #2: _____

2015 American Household Credit Card Debt Study:

- Average Credit Card Debt \$ _____
- Average Student Loan \$ _____

The Problem Within

“Here’s what the devil knows: If he can get you in debt, he can make you a slave. If he can convince you to spend all you have, you’ll never offer your tithes to God, never help the poor as you could have, and never use what you do have to accomplish God’s purposes. If he can tempt you to become a slave to creditors, you will not know simplicity, generosity, or joy. He will have neutralized your effectiveness for the Kingdom and choked the gospel out of your life.”

- Adam Hamilton

Jesus put it this way: *What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?*

Mark 8:36 (NIV)