

GREED

SCRIPTURAL TEACHINGS

Let's not forget, we came into this world with nothing and we will all leave that same way. Job 1:21

Read Psalm 62 for three reasons: why we need to take seriously the admonition about our emotional relationship to our material things.

Don't be too impressed with "successful" people until you learn all it has cost them to get where they are and to have what they have. Psalm 73:2-9

Sensible people will see trouble coming and avoid it, but an unthinking person will walk right into it and regret it later. Proverbs 27:12 GNT

Ecclesiastes 6:7 says, All man's efforts are for his mouth, yet his appetite is never satisfied.
Is your appetite satisfied with what you have or will it take more?

Hosea 4:6 says, My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Unfortunately, our planet can be too.

Jesus warns us in Luke 12:15, ...Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed.

Here's a quick thought on the importance of avoiding a continual state of wanting more. Read Ephesians 4:19

What can happen if you fall too much in love with the world? Paul warns us. Read 2 Timothy 4:10

Dear friends, I warn you as temporary residents and foreigners to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. 1 Peter 2:11

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15-16



There is an obvious fact about our human nature.
Whatever becomes common becomes “invisible” is called the Numbing Effect.

Greed can be like drinking salt water. The more you drink, the more thirsty you become. It never satisfies.

We continually get in the way of God’s best for us because we are too self-absorbed
with our own desires, rights, dreams, and passions to find it.

Fact is, by the time our sin manifests itself in actions, it’s already too late. The battle is already over.

Has the world injected you with so much Novocain that you have become numb
to the evil and sin that surrounds you?

We have nothing of value to offer God. We are begging poor, and we can only reach out our sin-sick hands
and beg God for mercy—this is POOR IN SPIRIT!

It is not a sin for you to own things. It is a sin for things to own you!

What the world esteems greatly [external things], God disregards
and what God esteems greatly [internal things], the world disregards.

Every time we expose ourselves to the godless things of this world it injects us with a shot of
spiritual Novocain—in time we will feel nothing,

Are you numb to the world and the evil in it?

Do not (trade down) for yourself treasures on earth—Inanimate World,
but (trade up) for yourselves treasures in heaven—Spiritual World.

The freest person in the world is the one that owns nothing. Never forget it is all HIS.

The world gladly parades before us one temptation after another
to entice us to waste our time on meaningless things.

The greatest challenge we face today is not getting the world INTO the church,
it’s getting the world OUT OF the church.

Heaven and Earth: What the world values here is worthless there
and what the world values as worthless here is actually priceless there.

It seems that the church, in an attempt to reach out and relate to the world, has fallen in.

You will know you are falling in love with the world when you realize you are never totally satisfied
with what you have.

This world is a battlefield, not a resort. A foreign military outpost, not our homeland.
A stopover, not the destination.

Have you ever asked yourself, How much is enough? If not, your attitude will always be, “Just a little bit more.”

Does God care what you eat today? Way more than you may know.

Do you have “sticky fingers”—taking what doesn’t belong to you and then keeping it for yourself?
Do you ever do that with any of God’s stuff?

The Bible is full of caution lights, warning us when we are about to head off course
and into spiritual trouble. Heed them.

The more we hold on to, the less we can receive. We must let go.
Only when we are willing to share our bounty will God bestow even more on us.

Man has a natural, divine instinct to be an owner/heir and an accumulator.
The problem is that this instinct can get out of control.

If we would be completely honest with ourselves, we would all have to admit
that we are quite prone to addictions.

What are your plans for today—doing what you have planned for God
or doing what God has planned for you?

You are only poor when you want more than you have.

QUOTES FROM OTHERS

Nearly all those evils in the world which people put down to greed or selfishness
are really far more the result of pride.
C.S. Lewis

The principal hindrance to the advancement of the kingdom of God is greed.
O. S. Hawkins

Let temporal things serve your use, but the eternal be the object of your desire.
Thomas à Kempis

He who forsakes all worldly desires sets himself above all worldly distress.
Maximus the Confessor

As long as this deliberate refusal to understand things from above continues,
it is idle to talk of any final victory over materialism.
Lewis

The grace that has freed us from bondage to sin is desperately needed to free us
from our bondage to materialism.
Randy Alcorn

A materialistic world is not going to be converted by a materialistic church.
Platt

We are deaf to the truth, blind to freedom, deceived by worldly treasures, imagining them to be the KEY,
when they are actually the LOCK.
Hatmaker

QUOTES FROM OTHERS

Worldliness consists in these three: attachment to the outward—attachment to the transitory—
attachment to the unreal.

Frederick Robertson

Open your hands, ye Whose hands are full! The world is waiting for you! The whole machinery of the Divine
beneficence is clogged by your hard hearts and rigid fingers. Give and spend, and be sure that God will send;
for only in giving and spending do you fulfill the object of His sending.

Josiah Gilbert Holland

Because we love something else more than this world,
we love even this world better than those who know no other.

C.S. Lewis

He who is not liberal with what he has does deceives himself
when he thinks he would be liberal if he had more.

Plumer

Media tells us that to be out of step with fashion is to be out of step with reality.

Awaken that conformity to a sick society is to be sick.

Foster

Who ignores the future by longing for present goods will finally lack both.

Who does good in the present for future rewards will receive it.

Saint Bede

He who is not liberal with what he has, does but deceive himself when he thinks he would be liberal
if he had more.

William S. Plumer

God's will is that we should be in a perpetual crisis of dependence on Him.

We defeat His will when we lay up treasures on earth.

MacDonald

God has made us to be conduits of his grace. The danger is thinking the conduit should be lined
with gold. It shouldn't. Copper will do.

John Piper

Note that the QUOTES FROM OTHERS are in the process of being verified; as of this posting, they have not been traced back to their original source.

ABOUT E. G. "JAY" LINK

Jay Link, Director of Stewardship Planning at Taylor University, spent 35 years counseling Christian families to build customized Master Stewardship Plans. He is an author, a mentor to hundreds of financial advisors and attorneys, and started his career as a pastor. His passion is helping Christian families use all the Lord has entrusted to them for Kingdom-building purposes.