

The 3 Icons of the Prosperity Gospel Coversheet

Main Text for entire teaching: I Timothy 6:3-12, 17-21

Week 1: Mammon

Week 2: Me (me-ism)

Week 3: The World

Week 4: The Biblical Principals to Finance

The 3 Icons of the Prosperity Gospel

Main Text: I Tim. 6:3-11, 17-21

The lie – Every Christian can/will be very rich.

Start with this parable – Luke 12:16-21 .

#1. Mammon – Money riches

Matthew 6:24 – Luke 12:15 - Colossians 3:5

Our culture has infected the church, when the church was supposed to bring healing to the culture. On a global scale, per capita, we are the richest people on the planet. That is not our perspective. The culture infected mind defaults to greed but the Christian mindset/default mode should be thankfulness, an attitude of gratitude.

1. We don't consider this therefore our heart continually aches for More, More, More
2. With this mind set we are distracted when we should be the most thankful, grateful, praise filled. We are selfish, spoiled whiners.
3. This has impacted our thinking. We are proud and have a level of comfort and luxury that must be retained or our lives are horrible.

Simply stated: Our income level declares our success or failure. Where did we pick up this philosophy?

- Every lie is sprinkled with truth.
- The opposite extreme is not necessarily truth.
- Only Bible deficient Christians can be deceived (the enemy knows the Bible)

Why would Jesus say count the cost if...

If following Him meant life would be a bowl of cherries? Luke 14:25-33

What did Jesus promise? **Know the promises** – Jesus promised:

Salvation – Eternal Life – Forgiveness – Mercy
Son ship HEAVEN – 4 – ETERNITY
John 14:3 John 11:25

The **Peace and Joy** that comes with the above treasure
Philippians 4:7 Colossians 3:15

Purpose – Sold out to His call required!
Luke 15:7 Luke 15:10

Provision – Matthew 6:25-33
Faith required!

Persecution - - Matthew 5:11-12, II Timothy 3:12
Matthew 10:22 Mark 10:29-30; 13:13 Luke 21:17

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Icon #2 is Me

Must deny ourselves take up our cross: James 4:2-3 II Tim. 3:2 Luke 14:26-27

Our culture has infected the church when the church was supposed to bring healing to our culture. Secular humanism has increased. Community service example: it was common in the 50's for both saved and unsaved to serve in the community.

Surely selfishness is the root of the sin nature. Selfish gain, self serving, and SELF EXALTING. Self and pride are closely related and usually very hard to self detect.

The magnifying glass of marriage, this is where selfishness is clearly seen.

Called to Serve: Matt. 20:25-28 Matt. 11:28-30

Be like Jesus

- Serving TV Program – I saw a program on TBN with a couple whose ministry is to married couples, Jimmy and Karen Evans, my eyes were opened to the serving opportunity in marriage.

What goes to the cross – Me, Self will, Rebellion, sinful desires, selfish desires.

Answering the call to serve is probably the main way that I crucify the flesh. Serving requires humility, it is a laying down of my rights, this is so opposite of the voice of our culture. This call to service is real, to keep this focus of serving may require me to take my will to the cross continually. I serve Jesus by serving my wife, people of the church and complete strangers.

The cross, the old man.

Called to Die Gal. 2:20

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Icon #3 is The World

Review:

- 1 is Mammon – voice telling you the accumulation of wealth makes me have worth. Matthew 6:19-21, Matthew 6:24
- 2 is Me – It's all about me, it's all up to me, me 1st if God at all 2nd, maybe no God. Col. 3:5, 6-17, Matt. 20:24

3 is The World – This is the spirit of the above voices. I Tim. 6:3-11, 17-21

We have 3 enemies

- The flesh
- The devil
- The world

Many of the trends or movements of our culture are truly anti-Christ spirits I John 4:3

As you listen to this teaching on line Pastor mentions the account of Cassie Bernal, the press would say God but would not say the name Jesus (I believe it unveils an anti-Christ spirit). James 4:4, I John 2:15-16, Col. 3:2

My great concern is that we have tried to fuse the gospel with the American Dream and the fruit of that false teaching (I Timothy 4:1) is weak, low impact, high maintenance selfish Christians. The gospel message presented in simplicity and truth is powerful, the very message is powerful (Heb. 4:12) Jesus makes no apologies for the requirement of total surrender for required change, change of heart, change of mind, change of lifestyle. If we skip or water down parts of the message then we rob the gospel of its power. Self preservation is a human tendency, we live in a culture where we don't want to be unpopular, we don't want to be called radical or intolerant but Jesus said not to be ashamed of Him or His words. (Mark 8:34-38). Light shines brightest in darkness; the Holy Spirit is calling us to holiness, to godliness, and to an unashamed witness. II Timothy 3:12 ***Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*** The church isn't suppose to make sinners comfortable continuing in sin, could this trend be a strategy of the enemy to cause the church to conform to its culture instead of saving it?

I need to:

- Recognize the voice behind some of the messages in our culture.
 - You are as valuable as your possessions
 - Its okay that I am selfish and remain seated on the throne of my heart.
 - Being a cultural Christian is okay; I fit God in where I can.