

Monday, March 15

Today's Reading: Matthew Chapter 16

Today's Devotional Message is by Pastor Jeff Thackston

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Matthew 16:26

Am I stating the obvious when I say that we live in a "Material World?" With all due deference to Madonna (the singer that is), I think most people would say that that statement is a bad thing. With all the pressures from job, advertisements, personal expectations, we can easily be consumed by the materialism of the world around us.

Let me start by saying a few things that this devotion is not. First this is not a sermon against having stuff. I like having stuff. Stuff can be useful. Stuff can be fun. Stuff can actually help the Kingdom of God. Stuff is not the problem. So before you roll this devotional up and throw it away, let's get that out of the way. I am not asking anyone to get rid of their stuff.

Secondly, this is not a "give more to Church" devotional. At least that is not its main purpose. It may be a side effect, but that is not its purpose.

The bottom-line is, "who is in control of your life". It is you? Is it your addictions? Is it your stuff? Or is it God. That may sound like a simple question. But the answer could have eternal significance. Now when it comes to this subject, I once again find myself needing to heed the words as much as anyone. Work, getting ahead at my job, and financial concerns all trap me as much as the next person. But there is HOPE!

That is the simple realization that everything we are, everything we can be, and everything we have are all integral in God's plan. Pastor Dave says at the end of every sermon. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. Do you think that that plan begins and ends with heaven? No, it means that if we allow God control, then he wants to give us a wonderful, amazing, abundant life. As we are this Lenten season, let's all take time to really look inside our hearts and figure out who is in control. Let's determine today that we want God at the rudder of our ship. Tell Him that we want him to work His plan for our life.

If you are anything like me, you have probably tried to steer your own life, and it has not worked out too well. Good News! God created the Universe, and put the planets in place, and makes the sun rise and set! And best of all He really does have a plan for your life. That means you financial, material life as well. Give Him control. I promise you will be glad that you did.