

Precious treasures

15 March 2009 – Practical Christian living service
Maturity

Rev 3:17,18 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

The idea that we should sell everything we own does not always add up to what we can achieve or receive. Somehow these times of giving up something is really just a time sacrifice. We simply show God that we honor Him or something like that. We sort of buy into the Martyr concept. If we beat ourselves enough, we will be worthy of something..... mercy or grace. This is not only a foreign concept but it is part of idolatry.

1. Selling everything without buying ground.

- 1.1.If we sell everything we have, we just have a lot of money.
 - a) We have to actually buy something with it.
- 1.2.We have to trade.
 - a) Trading is giving something for something else.
 - b) Leaving something for a time is a sacrifice, but if we can actually sell it for something better.
- 1.3.Giving something for benefit is nice
 - a) If you sacrifice tv for prayer it seems like double sacrifice.
 - b) If you stop watching tv and discover God in a deeper way it is selling to buy something.
- 1.4.Somewhat we just like to stay the martyrs!

2. Without gaining treasures we are another religion.

- 2.1.I don't know if this is what you want, but this is not what God has intended.
 - a) We don't have a religion, we have a live relationship!
 - b) God has no desire in the us being poor.
 - c) He wants us to be rich.
 - d) He wants us to have more than we can imagine.
- 2.2.Religions all over the world teach people to discipline and destroy themselves
 - a) God doesn't want us to hurt ourselves, for His pleasure.
 - b) He desires for us to be blessed, for His pleasure.

3. When was the last time you gained?

- 3.1.Focusing on God places us in contact with the greatest source of life
 - a) spending time with Him should be empowering
 - b) Spending time in the word should focus us
 - c) Spending time in Church should encourage us..
- 3.2.If you don't feel that way, something should change.
 - a) God is waiting
 - b) Don't complicate the relationship.
 - c) There is nothing more simplistic – connect with God and He gives you strength.
 - d) It is in Him that we have all we need
 - Rest
 - Peace
 - Power
 - Progress

Things to think and do

- Can you testify of victory in Him?
- Can you live a life of power because of His power?
- Elimination is not the task, Receiving is!