

PASTOR: Kip McCormick

DATE: December 8, 2024

SERIES: Rev'd Up

SERMON: Living in a Material World

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Revelation 18:1-24 (NASB)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE / FURTHER READING: Galatians 5:19-23; Isaiah 47:8; Hebrews 13:5; James 5:1-3; Luke 9:23

MESSAGE TAKEAWAY: The kingdom of greed will blind you to the Kingdom of God.



SUPPORTING THOUGHTS:

- Verse 1: This angel is not Jesus.
- In Chapter 18, Babylon is the worldwide political-economic system full of power, greed, and immorality.
- God is not a fun-sucker but a heart-protector.
- When you live out the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), you'll walk with four attributes of a Christ-follower: Character, honor, integrity and faith.
- When we walk away from godly values, we walk away from whom God has created us to be. When we walk away from whom God has created us to be we walk through the gates of "Babylon."
- Babylon's own sin destroys her.
- Revelation 18:9-20 comprises the funeral song for the fall of Babylon. The focus is on three groups of people – rulers, merchants and ship owners.
- An unhealthy desire for power, money, and possessions overpowers your heart and underdelivers in your life.
- We become discontent when we let the gift distract us from the Giver, Jesus.

Make sure your character is free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

- It's the LOVE of money – greed – that's the root of all evil.
- Whatever we have on this earth will not matter five minutes into heaven.

"Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. ²Your riches have rotted, and your garments have become moth-eaten. ³Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!" (James 5:1-3)

- Just as this mighty stone is thrown to the bottom of the sea, so goes Babylon, never to reappear.
- "Sorcery" is the spell that power, possessions, and greed cast upon our hearts.

(OVER)

(SUPPORTING THOUGHTS CONTINUED)

5 Signs characteristics of a greedy heart:

1. **Lack of Empathy:** You're not able to put yourself in someone else's shoes or see things from their point of view.
2. **Feeling of Entitlement:** You deserve what you want and will do almost anything to get it.
3. **Lack of Generosity:** "Give" is a "four-letter word." You do it reluctantly and only if there's something in it for you.
4. **Materialistic:** You like stuff – the more the merrier. The idea of getting rid of stuff is like cutting off an appendage on your body.
5. **Desire for Titles:** You desire a title for prestige rather than the responsibility it brings to be a positive influence in the lives of others.

CHALLENGE: Practice the art of surrender by "checking" unhealthy desires for power, possessions, and money.

- If you find yourself **wanting power** in an unhealthy way, **readjust** your heart and serve someone.
- If you find yourself **wanting more possessions** in an unhealthy way, give something away.
- If you want to have **fulfillment in life**, put others before you (deny yourself), help them in their burdens (pick up your cross), and reflect Jesus's love and life in all you do (follow Him – Luke 9:23)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What was the most challenging aspect of Kip's teaching today?
- Has greed ever "blinded" you or someone you love? What happened? How have you worked on dealing with the issue?
- What are some similarities and differences between the US and "Babylon" the political-commercial system?
- Kip said, "God is not a fun sucker but a heart protector." What does that mean to you? (Read Galatians 5:19-23 and discuss).
- How is power grabbing, materialism, and greed a "slippery slope"? Does it happen all at once or little by little...or both?
- Just as Babylon's sin destroyed her, how can greed and materialism destroy you...and New Life Fellowship?
- Discuss the Five Characteristics of a Greedy Heart. Any area you struggle with?
- Discuss Kip's challenge. What are some actions steps you can take to guard against greed in your heart...and life?

Sources: Tom Constable (Constable Notes); Jason Dexter (Study and Obey on-line Bible Study, Revelation, with excellent discussion questions and commentary); [Gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org); Gary Hamrick (Cornerstone Chapel, Revelation Series); Michael Heiser (Naked Bible Podcast; *Unseen Realm* and multiple books); Life Application Study Bible Commentary, Revelation; Chuck Swindoll (New Testament Commentary – Revelation); Through the Word Bible App (Kris Langham); Warren Wiersbe (The Wiersbe Commentary, New Testament).

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