

11. WAYS IN WHICH GOD ENCOURAGES US TO BE SPIRITUALLY MINDED

To grow our Spiritual mindedness, we need to be delighted by Spiritual things – what we love is what captivates us. Whoever has our love, has the whole of us, because love causes us to give ourselves away – will it be to the things of the Spirit of God, or to things of the Spirit of the world? Our love is like the rudder of a ship – where it is turned, there it will go.

It is not surprising that the world seeks to captivate us – just look at the marketing industry in whatever area of life – it must attract our worship now, for the things of the world will pass away. We may be surprised that God seeks to captivate our love – **PRO 23:26** “My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways.” We need therefore to examine our ways as to how we may direct our love away from the world and towards God.

For us to neglect what God teaches us by His actions in the world is to treat His wisdom with contempt. Before the fall of Adam, God said that the world was very good but since the fall, every person born into this world inherits Adams sin of disobedience. Not only were we born in sin, but we were conceived in sin **PSM 51:5** The things of this world are now of less importance than Spiritual things. Because of sin, the world is under a curse. The world is not worthy of our love, and God has demonstrated this by a number of things.

Primarily, the true nature of the world is demonstrated by its reaction to the life of Christ. Satan is the chief protagonist, and he even has confronted the Master Himself, challenging Christs Kingship. **MATT 4:1-11**. So, he will certainly attack each and every Christian in one way or other. The world’s rejection of Christ clearly demonstrates the rottenness of mans opinions.

We see this rejection also in the way the world treated the apostles. The men who had been specifically instructed by the Lord in the setting up of the Christian Church. Yet they lived and died in poverty and persecution.

Do we as Christians seek wealth and prestige? Or should I say wealth and pride. This is what the world seeks after. And this is what God so often grants to the unbeliever – wealth and power. Some of the wealthiest and most powerful people of this world are unbelievers and ungodly. Does that not show us God’s contempt for the riches of this world? If those things were great within themselves, God would grant them abundantly to his children. But the word teaches us that our wealth is in heaven. The worldly wealth is useless to us after we die. But heaven’s wealth is eternal. The rewards that we receive from the Lord in Heaven, are for ever.

The Lord in His grace may grant riches to Christians, but the problems arise when those riches cloud our view of heavenly things. If we are Spiritually minded there is a far better chance that we will use earthly goods, the right way. Christians will know the danger of loving these things too much. They will better understand that those earthly goods in fact belong to God, and they are to be good stewards of them.

Our attitude to our possessions will be a good indication of whether we are Spiritually minded or not. No one can have a detached attitude to these things unless there is a strong attachment to Spiritual things. To think less of one thing means to think more of something else.

Our attachment and love for things of the world needs to be strictly disciplined. Our love for earthly things will not automatically fade away – we must deliberately keep it from governing us. How can we love that which is contemptable to God?

Christians can appear very zealous, but if they also love the world, it is not a true measure of their Spirituality.

If we listen to preaching that is not based on the good and perfect word of God, we are to understand that we could be persuaded to false teaching. The ultimate bedrock of our belief is alone the Word of God.