

The Meaninglessness of Materialism

I've often heard preachers say that we can't take U-Hauls into eternity with us. But I would say it's not for a lack of trying. Pardon my insane naivety of late, but I recall a simpler day. A time of less stress, or perhaps it was merely a different stress; however, things did move slower. I had little to nothing material-wise, yet it truly seemed not to matter. I was raised poor as a child but hardly knew how poor until I was nearly an adult. But with time and the need to accept the expected responsibilities of adulthood along with a calling and vocation, also seemingly required me to do better than my raising. That's when things started changing. Stress. Pressure. Unbearable pressure. The American lifestyle deceptively wreaks unsustainable stress and unbearable pressure.

Those practically nameless or forgotten souls of society living under the bridges at some point gave up on the pursuit of things. Cultural burnouts that now impede the capitalist's dreams of a celebrated global utopia are narrowly viewed as a societal reproach to the materialistic addicts of our era. But maybe they are happier? Maybe they discovered the folly of the material world, so now they are laughing at us. Maybe just maybe, they even feel sorry for us as they witness a human version of the hamster locked in their prison of alleged success, running incessantly on the spinning wheel of progress.

A wise man once declared vanity vanity all is vanity. Even wise men today say, "Infinite growth of material consumption in a finite world is an impossibility." "There are two worlds we live in—a material world, bound by the laws of physics, and the world inside our mind, which is just as important." "Without the spiritual world, the material world is a disheartening enigma." "Without question, the material world and your everyday needs distract you from living meaningfully."

One great man that walked among us had this to say as he described the apocalyptic end and final days of the human journey on Earth, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

Only what we do for Christ will last. Only what we do for Him will be counted in the end. Only what we do for Christ will last.

Bill Pitman