



WEEKLY DEVOTIONALS FROM PASTOR LYLE WAHL

19 June 2026

Stuff!

One writer tells of a friend who lost almost everything in a fire and sometime later had a good number of people say, “I wish that would happen to me!”

Stuff.

All of us have some. And, at least at times, we have a lot. It seems to keep multiplying when you’re not looking! You can turn around and find the closets, basement, attic, garage and shed full and overflowing with stuff.



All of us have also read about, have been lectured and guilt-tripped, and even thought about living with less.

Let’s take a different approach to all the stuff which can so easily entangle us.

A good Biblical view of the stuff of this world includes a number of things. For example, God blesses those who honor Him, including materially. Proverbs chapter 3,

“Honor the LORD from your wealth, and from the first of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine” (9-10).

While this is a proverb, not a promise of wealth, it does tell us that God blesses those who use the stuff He has given them in a way that honors Him. Honoring Him with what we have means having faith in God, trusting Him so we use the things He gives us in ways that please Him, including making that the first priority—to honor Him “from the first of all your produce”, rather than from what is left over.

As Jesus interpreted the part of His parable of the Sower about the seed that was sown among thorns, He said, “the deceitfulness of wealth choke[s] the word, and it becomes unfruitful.” Things are deceitful in that they hold out the allure of bringing us fulfilment, which they never can because God did not design them to do that. The stuff of this world can easily worm its way to the center of our focus. King David warned, in Psalm 62, “if wealth increases, do not set your heart on it” (10). Jesus made it clear that meaning and fulfilment are not found in the stuff of this world. In Luke chapter 12 He tells us, “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not

even when one is affluent does his life consist of his possessions” (15). Back in Proverbs, chapter 23, we are warned that not only can things not satisfy us, they are insecure,

“Do not weary yourself to gain wealth; stop dwelling on it. When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings like an eagle that flies toward the heavens” (4-5).

A related part of a Biblical view of the stuff of this world is given to us by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus, recorded in Matthew chapter 6, tells us,

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (19-21).

Let's pair that with Paul's words in Colossians chapter 3,

“Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth” (1-2).

You see, it is not how much you have, but where your treasure, your heart is. The point is that our deepest, true inner goals and priorities are to be those of heaven, not those of earth. It can be easy to say this, but it can be difficult to keep it in focus, and so we may continue to be shaped by this world, by the things of this world, more than we realize.

Money, possessions, fame and power headline the long list of the things “that are on the earth.” The qualities of heaven, such as Christ-like character, the motives of heaven, including love, humility, sacrifice, and the works of heaven, worship and service of God, headline the list of things above.

It is good and important to check and evaluate how much stuff we have. It is better and more important to check and evaluate where our heart and treasure really is.

Pastor Lyle