

Lesson Notes:

## **True Success**

All of us want to be successful in life. Many link success with material wealth. God's view of success is entirely different than the world's view. Many of the most successful people on earth have died virtually penniless. Examples that come to my mind are John the Baptist and Mother Theresa. Below is a discussion of God's Plan for Success.

## **Scriptural Principles**

### **World's Way: Success equals material wealth**

#### **1) The world typically measures success as an accumulation of wealth.**

- a) Solomon tells us in **Ecclesiastes 2:3-11** that valuing wealth is simply vanity.
- b) Jesus tells us in **Matthew 6:19-21** not to lay up treasures here on earth where it may be corrupted and stolen but lay up treasures in heaven.

### **God's Way: God measures our Success in the following ways:**

#### **2) Looking at our priorities.**

- a) John tells us in **1 John 2:15** that if we love the things of this world Christ is not in our hearts.
- b) **In 539 BC the Persian King Cyrus permitted the children of Israel to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple that the Babylonians had destroyed.**  
After 25 years of concentrating on themselves and not the temple Haggai (**Haggai 1:1-7**), a prophet of the Lord admonished the children of Israel for concentrating on their own comforts and not rebuilding God's temple.

#### **3) How hard do we work at fulfilling God's purpose for our lives?**

- a) Paul tells us in **Philippians 3:12-14** that fulfilling God's Purpose in his life is like running a race. And he puts every ounce of energy into running that race.
- b) In **Acts 20:24** Paul says that God's mission is more important to him than his own life.
- c) Paul tells us in **2 Corinthians 5:20** that we are ambassadors for Christ.
- d) **Are we supporting or participating in missions?** – Jesus last message to his disciples in **Matthew 28:19-20** was to go forth and spread the holy gospel.

#### **4) Does God's word have a place in our heart and lives?**

- a) In **Joshua 1:8** the Lord told Joshua to meditate on his word both day and night.
- b) In **Psalms 119:10-12** David tells us to hide God's word in our hearts.

#### **5) Are we Obedient to his word?**

**In the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of Joshua, Joshua learned that the children of Israel had golden images in their tents of false gods that they had recovered after**

**conquering the Amalekites. This was strictly prohibited by God. Joshua was infuriated with their rebellion. Joshua called all of the people together and “chewed” them out for their disobedience. He told them that they were to choose between obedience or departure but “As for Me and My House We Will Serve the Lord”(Joshua 24:15).**

**6) Do we Love Christ as he has commanded?**

**In Matthew 22:36-39 Jesus commands us to Love God with all of our Heart, all of our Soul and all of our Mind. Do you Love him as he commanded?**

**7) Are we concerned about the Salvation of Others? – In Mark 8:36-38 Jesus tells us that if we are ashamed to proclaim our Love for him than he will be ashamed to acknowledge us in the Kingdom of Heaven.**