

North Christian Church -

Pastor Ed Collins

www.nccdighton.org

7/5/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 101

Most Americans are "drunk" on the world...even those hearing this message.

Institutionalized Arrogance

Just about every aspect of American life represents institutionalized arrogance, which is to say that social, cultural, and economic objectives are ungodly, organized to meet the desires of the flesh.

Luke 12:48

but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

Act Like Ambassadors

While we are commanded by God to subject ourselves to our earthly masters, the government, the local laws (God placed us as ambassadors for Christ), we mustn't exchange our true allegiance to God for something so fleeting as a country.

Act Like Ambassadors

We are just pilgrims passing through, remember. And we belong to the Lord God, as adopted citizens of heaven. This is an attitude we must adopt if we want to be sanctified, set apart from the world, and set apart for His purposes. Heb 11:8-10,13

I Love Americans, But...

America is obsessed with money, with "success", with "being" successful, with compiling, elevating, comparing, and superiority. These are fleshly objectives that are projected both outwardly to the world, and inwardly to its citizens.

The American Believer

Most of you would respond to the embarrassment of others in the church knowing how ridiculously selfish you are with your earnings, maybe even increase your giving to the church. But that will never happen because it's not the church's job to expose you.

The American Believer

Likewise, most of you DO already respond to the embarrassment of others in the world knowing how poorly you compare to them, so you increase your giving to the world (you purchase worldly things, to sanctify self, by self, for self).

John 4:31-32

Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."

The American Mockery

The "Christian American Way" is to assume that God blesses us with wealth and such, for us, as opposed to for others; that His grace is meant to be collected for self; that we have the right to be upset with God when these blessings dry up (possibly because of our own dysfunctional use of them as we fail the test).

Concerned about finances??

Is it because you can't live the lifestyle you have always dreamed about? Well, ask yourself, where did that "dream" come from? Who fed you that expectation?!

Concerned about finances??

The kingdom of darkness has been vigorously at work in America, through TV and movies and internet, and he has convinced us we need and deserve a certain lifestyle! Ha! This has distracted American believers from their amazing, wonderful calling to live for and love others, living in the image of Christ Himself.

Sucker

Satan HAS successfully duped us. Are we going to let it continue in our souls, and lives?

Jas 4:3

You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

Luke 12:13-14

Notice how the person in the crowd has completely misappropriated Jesus' purpose in his life. This is the way of the average Christian American - they perceive Jesus Christ as just another utility, one that is taken advantage of on an "as-needed" basis, but not wholly or dependently.

There's nothing wrong with having wealth. The question is, what's our heart thinking about it? And is it being used for ourselves, or for God and others?