

IV. THE BIBLE'S SOLUTION...

A. We Need a _____

Ezekiel 18:30-31

Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. 31 Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and **get a new heart** and a new spirit.

B. We Need _____!

Ezekiel 36:25-26

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 **I will give you a new heart** and put a new spirit in you;

Job 22:21-25

Give in to God, come to terms with him and everything will turn out just fine. 22 Let him tell you what to do; take his words to heart. 23 Come back to God Almighty and he'll rebuild your life. Clean house of everything evil. 24 Relax your grip on your money and abandon your gold-plated luxury. 25 God Almighty will be your treasure, more wealth than you can imagine.

CONCLUSION

Commitment Prayer

Lord Jesus, help me to be grateful for what I have, and to remember that I don't need most of what I want, and that true joy is found in simplicity and generosity, in faith and in pursuing Your purpose for my life.
Amen!

TREASURING JESUS

When The Dream Becomes A Nightmare

January 9, 2011

SY101

INTRODUCTION

Psalm 11:3

When the foundations are being destroyed, **what can the righteous do?**

Jeremiah 6:16

Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, **ask where the good way is, and walk in it**, and you will find rest for your souls.

Psalm 46:1 (RSV)

God is our refuge and strength, a **very present** help in trouble.

TREASURING JESUS

Treasuring More Generously All You Have in Jesus

WHEN THE DREAM BECOMES A NIGHTMARE (*January 9th*)
Finding Faith in a Financial Crisis

GOD'S WISDOM AND YOUR FINANCES (*January 16th*)
Clarifying Your Relationship with Jesus and Money

MORE THAN ENOUGH! (*January 23rd*)
Learning to Cultivate Contentment in Christ and Simplicity
In the Savior

DEFINED BY GENEROSITY (*January 30th*)
Defining Your Life by What Really Matters to Jesus

BRINGING OUR NEW TREASURES AND OLD (*February 6th*)
Testimony Sunday—Rejoicing in All that We Have Received
In Christ

A Sobering Truth:

We live in a world that encourages us to live beyond our means.

I. THE AMERICAN DREAM...

Alexis de Tocqueville:

(Americans) are extremely eager in the pursuit of immediate material pleasures and are always discontented with the position that they occupy...They think about nothing but ways of changing their lot and bettering it. For people in this frame of mind, every new way of getting wealth more quickly, every machine which lessens work, every means of diminishing the cost of production, every invention which makes pleasure easier or greater, seems the most magnificent accomplishment of the human mind...One usually finds that the love of money is either the chief or a secondary motive at the bottom of everything the Americans do. This gives a family likeness to all their passions and soon makes them wearisome to contemplate.

II. THE AMERICAN NIGHTMARE...

A. _____

Definition:

affluenza, n. 1. The bloated, sluggish, and unfulfilled feeling that results from efforts to keep up with the Joneses. 2. An epidemic of stress, overwork, waste and indebtedness caused by dogged pursuit of the American Dream. 3. An unsustainable addiction to economic growth.

B. _____

1 Timothy 6:9-10

People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and **pierced themselves with many griefs.**

Ecclesiastes 5:10

The lover of money will not be satisfied with money; nor the lover of wealth with gain. This is also vanity.

III. THE DEEPER PROBLEM WITHIN

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Matthew 4:8-10

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and **showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.** 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” 10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

Luke 8:14

The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are **choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures,** and they do not mature.

Mark 8:36-37

What good is it for a man to **gain the whole world,** yet forfeit his soul?