

AMBITION

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Mat. 6:19-20



WHAT IS AMBITION?

Ambition is defined as an ardent desire for rank, fame, power, success, achievement. In reality, our world teaches us to seek great accomplishments, but unfortunately, it is most always directed to the “Big Self”.

The Word of God teaches us to focus on and seek God first for our lives, while ambition looks towards the world. The apostle John said: “For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world.” (1John 2:16) This scripture tells us that desiring the things of this world, and make it the focus of our lives, shows clearly that our hearts are pursuing the kingdom of this world, rather than God’s Kingdom.

Ambition is like pouring water into a bottomless barrel, and is obviously never satisfied as it always seeks for more. That’s why king Solomon asked God for wisdom above all, yet he was the richest man of his time, possessed all a man could wish for, and said, “He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also *is* vanity.” Ecc. 5:10. What a waste to see people amassing fortunes, fame, worldly success, power over others, yet when facing death, it’s of no value, it’s all gone.

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“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Mat. 16:26

THE DANGERS OF AMBITION!


What are the dangers of ambition to seek fame, success, money or power? Like the featured scripture says, what will the end result be, if we get all we desire in this world, but spend eternity in hell? Aren't we supposed to seek God first, and trust Him with our lives? The problem with seeking the things of this world is, as Paul says in 1Tim. 6:9, “Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.” In other words, ambition can become a trap that eventually overwhelms, ensnares and isolates people from God to eventually find themselves lost eternally.

Ambition finds its source in the deception that the world offers in the form of self-glorification, as Paul states in Col. 2:8, “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

Ambition is no less than the cult of self, where people dedicate their lives to worldly pursuits, to eventually find themselves alone and abandoned by all, without God.

Worldly ambition, contrary to the purpose of striving to achieve for God and others, is a trap we must avoid at all cost.

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“For after all these things the Gentiles seek.
For your heavenly Father knows that you
need all these things. But seek first the
kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you.”

Mat. 6:32-33

THE SOLUTION...

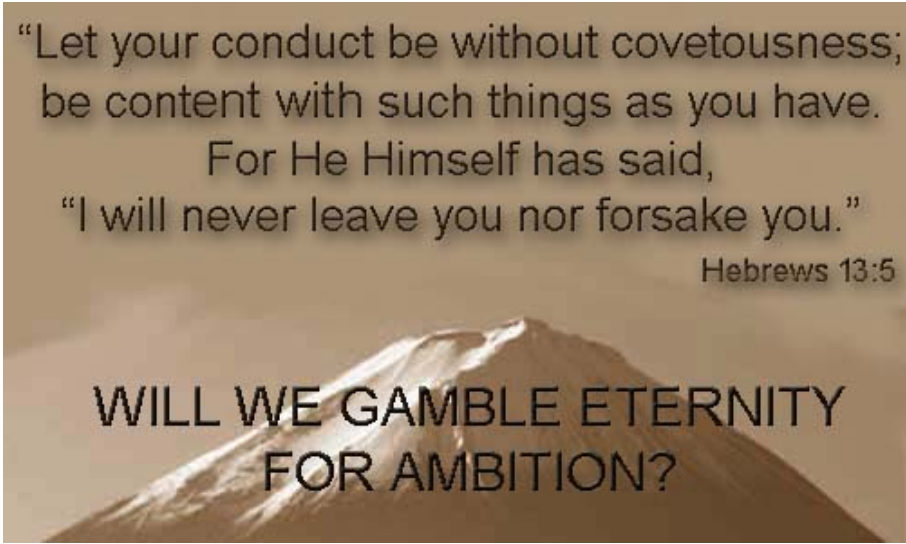
We all desire to succeed in life. The difference lies in the desires and intents behind the goals we pursue. Paul said in Philippians 3:14, “I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Accordingly, in setting our goals, our first thought should consist in making sure our intents for life do line up with God’s will above all. Paul also said, “*Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” Philip. 2:3. Indeed our desires for success should never come to the detriment of others, the reason he said to the Colossians, “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.”

The question then is, how can we seek success and at the same time honor God and love our neighbor? Proverbs 16:3 brings this simple but powerful solution that will lead us in the right direction; “Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established.” As well, Proverbs 16:9 adds, “A man’s heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.”

In a nutshell, ambition refers to the humanistic approach to success whereas seeking and trusting God for our plans will always bring success according to His will.

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“Let your conduct be without covetousness;
be content with such things as you have.

For He Himself has said,
“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Hebrews 13:5

WILL WE GAMBLE ETERNITY
FOR AMBITION?

Ambition and covetousness normally goes hand in hand. Both seek to be recognized, to be popular, adorned, and generate a desire for power and riches. We just need to look around us in this world and most of what we see is ultra ambitious people ready to destroy anyone or any obstacle on their path.

However, real success has nothing to do with comparing ourselves to others, but rather seeking success as defined by God in His Word. The featured scripture clearly confirms that we need not fear for our needs as the Lord will always sustain and guide us if we seek Him first above everyone and everything. Philippians 4:19 tells us “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

If we say we trust God for eternity, shouldn't we start with this life? After all, isn't God the very source of life? Will we trust God for all aspects of our lives, or are we going to be swayed and drowned by the world's selfish ambitious attitudes that can only produce deception and death?

Jesus in Mark 8:36 put it as clear as can be: “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?” Will we gamble eternity with God to pursue worldly ambitions, is it worth it?

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