

Ambition is defined as an ardent desire for fame, power and success, in essence the pride of life focused on impressing the world.

On the other hand, what does the Word of God teach us on how to avoid the deceptions of the world?

1John 2:16, “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.”

Ecclesiastes 5:10, “He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also *is* vanity.”

James 3:16, “For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there.”

Clearly, in focusing on the things of the flesh, it shows that our hearts are pursuing the kingdoms of this world, rather than God’s.

As such Jesus said:

Matthew 6:33, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you.”

What’s more?

John 15:5, “He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

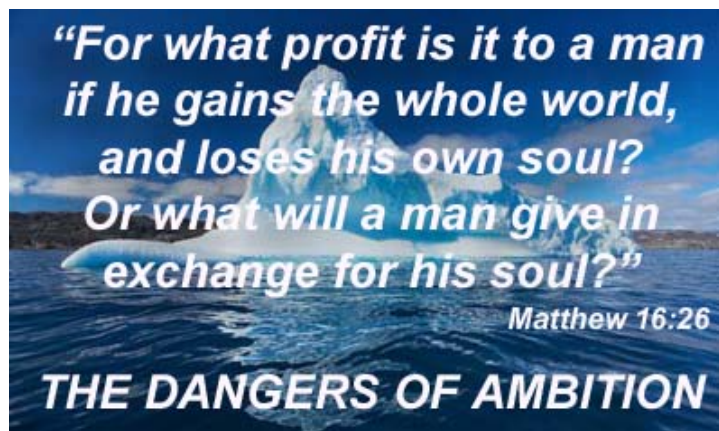
Speaking of the Pharisees He added:

Matthew 23:5, “They do all their deeds to be seen by others.”

Ambition is like pouring water into a bottomless barrel. As such, people amass fortunes, fame, power, yet when facing death, it’s all gone.

Right now, which kingdom am I presently pursuing?

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What are the dangers of ambition in focusing our lives to seek fame, success, money and power?

1 Timothy 6:9-10, "Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 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."

As such:

Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

James 1:14, "Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed."

As a result:

Proverbs 11:6, "The unfaithful will be caught by *their* lust."

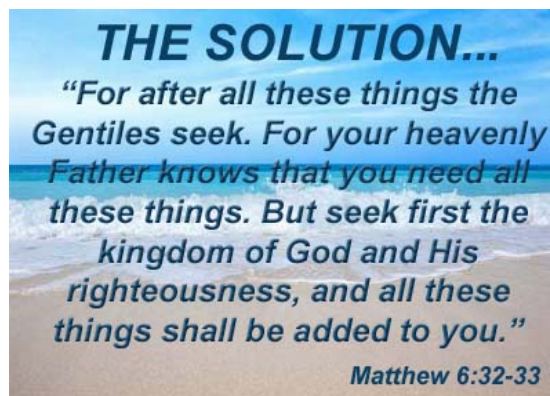
In other words, craving for and pursuing worldly pleasures is no less than rejecting God for the cult of self.

In Jesus' own words, what then must we do to avoid being deceived by the world's lusts?

Luke 12:15, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

Am I committed to trust and follow Christ from the heart, and so reject the empty deceits and lusts of the world?

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We all desire to succeed in life. However, how must we focus our goals for success so we abide in Christ?

Colossians 1:10-11, “Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power.”

Philippians 2:3, “*Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit.”

Colossians 3:1-2, “Seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

As such:

1 Timothy 6:17, “Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.”

Why?

Romans 8:5, “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”

Therefore:

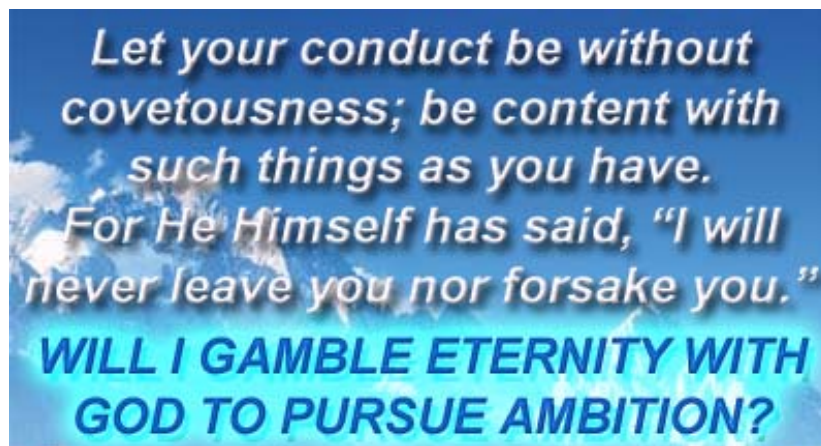
Proverbs 16:3, “Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established.”

How?

Colossians 3:23, “Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.”

In a nutshell, ambition implies a humanistic approach to success whereas trusting God for our plans will always bring success according to His will. Agree?

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Ambition and covetousness is a lust for recognition, popularity, and generates a desire for power and riches. In looking at our world, we see ultra ambitious people ready to destroy anyone or any obstacle on their path.

As such:

James 4:1-2, "Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires for* pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war."

Galatians 1:10, "Do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ."

Moreover:

James 3:16, "Where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice."

Matthew 23:12, "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Romans 2:8, "For those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger."

Mark 8:36, "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"

The reason the apostle Paul said:

Romans 8:18, "Consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Will I gamble eternity with God to pursue worldly ambitions?

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