

Memory Verse: 3:2

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Review: How to Please God

Lesson 2 An Easy Life or a Great Life

Discussion: What is the difference between wealth and success? Our lesson today will help us learn what it means to be successful.

Name some people who you consider to be successful. What makes them that way?

The problem with successful people is we only see the fruit of their success. We don't see the heartaches, pain, and loneliness that go along with it. Successful people have to be willing to pay the price.

Read Colossians 1:15-2:1

The fact is many people crack under pressure. If you want to be successful, you must be tough. You must be willing to endure criticism. You must be willing to work hard. You must be willing to suffer.

What do you want an easy or a great life?

A great life is living a life that makes a difference, that has a positive impact on those around you and continue to benefit others even generations after you've gone.

Read Joshua 1:8 KJV

What is the promise? What is the criteria according to Joshua 1:8 for having good success?

How does the world measure success?

Our culture defines success with what has been called the five p's:

1. Power
2. Position
3. Prestige
4. Pleasure
5. Prosperity

How do the five p's compare to what is mentioned in Joshua 1:8?

Listen to some comments from so called successful persons in the past.

* **John D. Rockefeller:** "I have made many millions but they have brought me no happiness."

* **William Henry Vanderbilt:** "The care of two hundred million is enough to kill anyone. There's no pleasure in it."

* **John Jacob Astor:** "I am the most miserable man on the earth."

* **Henry Ford:** "I was happier when I was doing a mechanic's job."

* **Andrew Carnegie:** "Millionaires seldom smile."

Think about it for a moment. These men were considered "movers and shakers" in their own time. Yet, each one has his own feelings about his fortune.

Read about a problem between two brothers in Luke 12:13-15. What warning does Jesus give in verse 15?

The above text precedes the **Parable of the Rich Fool**. Read Luke 12:16ff (ff means and following)

Think about the pairings of the word "rich fool"?

- What was wrong with the rich man's attitude?
- How did the rich man view his life?
- How did he view his possessions?
- What do you think was the rich man's plans?
- What do you think about God's pronouncement upon the man?

Jesus is really saying a good life has nothing to do with being wealthy!

Why was he called a fool?

Back to Colossians

Paul addresses Christ's preeminence over everything! What does this have to do with success and a great life or an easy life?

If we can't answer this question, I believe, we miss the heart of this passage.

What happens when we make Jesus Christ priority over all creation?

What happens to our mindset about what we own?

How do we truly look at success when we consider Christ being first in everything?

Not only is Christ the head of all things, He upholds everything! Read 1:17. **Praise God!**

Does He have first place over your thought life? Does He have first place over your words? Does He have first place over how you use your time? Does He have first place over your finances?

Does He have first place in everything in your life? Which do you prefer? **An easy life or a great life?**