

American Idols: The Mall

Luke 12:13-31

According to Google search, **Wal-Mart** is the #1 Nightspot in Johnstown
“Johnstown night spot”

The average teenage has about \$90 in discretionary money each week.

71% of kids ages 8 to 18 say they'd be happier if they had more money to buy more things.

Author John Rosemond says that while adults generally attain 10% to 20% of the things they desire, kids are accustomed to receiving about 80% of what they want.

—Nov. 2008, the ParentLink.

1. **Guard** against all kinds of greed.

The idol is not things, but believing things will save you.

“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. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” —1 Timothy 6:9, 10

φιλαργυρια philarguria fil-ar-goo-ree'-ah

Love of silver, money, things made of silver, shining things.

2. Possessions **possess** us.

- **Distract**
- **Worry**
- Desire **more**

3. Life does not **consist** of the abundance of our possessions

“Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”
 —Luke 12:15

“This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”
 —Luke 12:21

How do we smash the idol of consumerism in our lives?

1. Strive for **contentment**

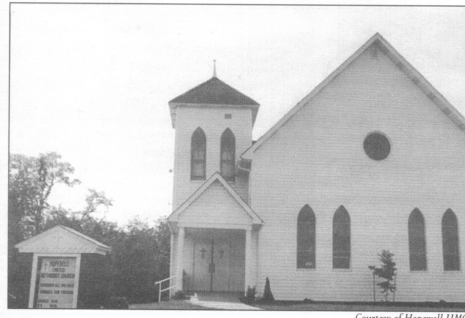
“Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked;”
—Psalm 37:16

*“**But godliness with contentment is great gain.** ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.”*
—1 Timothy 6:6-8

InterLink, UM Paper, Dec 19, 2008

Faithful Son Leaves \$2 Million to Church

John Ferguson, a simple man who drove an old pickup truck, lived in a trailer without running water and kept to himself, left more than \$2 million to Hopewell UMC in Blairsville.



2. **Give** to others, **Give** away, **Give** back to God.

“Make all you can, save all you can, give all you can.”—John Wesley

Buying things is a priority for most young people. But a recent survey also shows that feeling appreciative can diminish materialism’s impact.

75% of teenagers say they like to share their favorite things with other people. The same number says they like to do favors for friends or family, even when they’re busy.

76% of teenagers say that a list of things they have to be thankful for would be very long.
—November 2008 theParentLink,

3. Look to **Jesus**.

“But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.”
—Luke 12:31

The great difficulty spiritually is to concentrate on God, and it is His blessings that make it difficult. Troubles nearly always make us look to God; His blessings are apt to make us look elsewhere.
—*My Utmost For His Highest*, Jan 22

True Joy and Happiness begins with the Beginner, Jesus, the Alpha and Omega.