

GREED, IDOLATRY, AND COVETING

WHAT IS GREED?

(Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition)

Greed – “a **selfish** and **excessive** desire for more of something (as money) than is needed”

Greedy – “**1** : having a strong desire for food or drink, **2** : marked by greed : **having or showing a selfish desire for wealth and possessions**”

WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

Idolatry – “**1** : the worship of a physical object as a god; **2** : **immoderate attachment or devotion to something**”

Idolize – “to worship as a god; *broadly* : **to love or admire to excess** <the common people whom he so idolized>

WHAT IS COVETOUSNESS?

Covet – “**1** : to wish for earnestly, **2** : to desire (what belongs to another) inordinately or culpably”

Covetous – “**1** : **marked by inordinate desire for wealth or possessions or for another's possessions**, **2** : having a craving for possession”

Greed and covetousness become idolatry as those things we must have become a replacement for God.

WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY ABOUT WEALTH AND POSSESSIONS?

Is wealth bad?

Genesis 24:34-35 – “**34** And he said, I am Abraham's servant. **35** And the LORD hath blessed my master greatly; and he is become great: **and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels, and asses.**”

Genesis 27:57-60 – “**57** When the even was come, there came **a rich man** of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: **58** He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. **59** And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, **60** **And laid it in his own new tomb**, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.”

1 Kings 3:5-13 – “**5** In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. **6** And Solomon said, Thou hast showed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. **7** And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. **8** And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. **9** Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? **10** And the speech **pleased** the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing. **11** And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; **neither hast asked riches for thyself**, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; **12** Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. **13** **And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honor:** so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.”

Ecclesiastes 5:18-19 – “**18** Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion. **19** Every man also to whom **God hath given riches and wealth**, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; **this is the gift of God.**”

Malachi 3:10 – “**10** Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, **if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.**”

Mark 14:13-16 – “**13** And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him. **14** And whosoever he shall go in, say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? **15** And he will shew you **a large upper room furnished and prepared:** there make ready for us. **16** And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover.”

How should we give alms and tithes?

Matthew 6:1-4 – “**1** Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. **2** Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. **3** But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: **4** That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.”

It is better to be righteous and poor, than wealthy and wicked

Psalms 37:16 – “A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.”

Proverbs 3:13-16 – “**13** Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. **14** For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. **15** She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. **16** Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.”

Proverbs 22:1-2 – “**1** A **GOOD name** is rather to be chosen than great riches, and **loving favour** rather than silver and gold. **2** The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all.”

Jeremiah 9:23-24 – “**23** Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, **let not the rich man glory in his riches: 24** **But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me,** that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.”

What God offers to us is everlasting; possessions in this world are not

2 Nephi 6:99-102 – “**99** Come, my brethren, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters; and he that hath no money, come buy and eat; yea, come buy wine and milk without money and without price. **100** **Wherefore, do not spend money for that which is of no worth, nor your labor for that which cannot satisfy.** **101** Hearken diligently unto me, and remember the words which I have spoken; and come unto the Holy One of Israel, **102** **And feast upon that which perisheth not, neither can be corrupted, and let your soul delight in fatness.**”

3 Nephi 5:110-115 – “**110** Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and thieves break through and steal, **111** But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. **112** **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.** **113** The light of the body is the eye, if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. **114** But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! **115** No man can **serve** two masters, for either he will hate the one, and love the other: or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye can not serve God and Mammon.”

Psalms 49:6-17 – “**6** They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; **7** None of them can by any means redeem his brother, **nor give to God a ransom for him: 8** (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:) **9** **That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption.** **10** For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, **and leave their wealth to others. 11** **Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names. 12** Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish. **13** This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah. **14** Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling. **15** But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah. **16** Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; **17** **For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.**”

Ecclesiastes 5:10-16 – “**10** He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. **11** When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: **and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?** **12** The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep. **13** There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, **riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt.** **14** But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand. **15 As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.** **16** And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?”

John 4:9-14 – “**9** Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. **10** Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. **11** The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? **12** Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? **13** Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: **14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst;** but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”

2 Peter 3:10 – “**10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, **the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.**”

Revelation 3:17-18 – “**17** Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: **18** I counsel thee to **buy of me gold tried in the fire,** that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.”

There is no security in our wealth and possessions

Luke 12:13-34 – “**13** And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. **14** And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you? **15** And he said unto them, **Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.** **16** And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: **17** And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? **18** And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. **19** And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. **20** But God said unto him, **Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?** **21** **So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.** **22** And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. **23** The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. **24** Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have

storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? **25** And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? **26** If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? **27** Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **28** If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? **29** And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. **30** For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. **31** **But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.** **32** Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. **33** Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. **34** **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**”

Blessings and riches can become a stumbling block if we are not careful, or let our guard down

2 Nephi 6:62-64 – “**62** But wo unto the rich, which are rich as to the things of the world. **63** For because that they are rich, they despise the poor, and they persecute the meek, and their hearts are upon their treasures: wherefore, **their treasure is their God.** **64** **And behold, their treasure shall perish with them also.**”

Helaman 2:138-140 – “**138** And in the commencement of the sixty and seventh year, the people began to grow exceeding wicked again. **139** For behold, **the Lord had blessed them so long with the riches of the world**, that they had not been stirred up to anger, to wars, nor to bloodsheds; **therefore they began to set their hearts upon their riches;** **140** Yea, they began to seek to get gain, that they might be lifted up one above another; therefore they began to commit secret murders, and to rob and to plunder that they might get gain.”

Helaman 5:28-32 – “**28** Behold ye, the people of this great city, and hearken unto my words; yea, hearken unto the words which the Lord saith; for behold, he saith that ye are cursed because of your riches, **29** **And also are your riches cursed because ye have set your hearts upon them, and have not hearkened unto the words of him who gave them unto you.** **30** **Ye do not remember the Lord your God in the things which he hath blessed you, but ye do always remember your riches, not to thank the Lord your God for them;** **31** Yea, your hearts are not drawn out unto the Lord, but they do swell with great pride, unto boasting, and unto great swelling, envyings, strifes, malice, persecutions, and murders, and all manner of iniquities. **32** For this cause hath the Lord God caused that a curse should come upon the land, and also upon your riches; and this because of your iniquities”

Psalm 62:10 – “Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: **if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.**”

Matthew 19:16-24 – “**16** And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? **17** And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. **18** He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, **19** Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. **20** The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? **21** Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and

thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. **22** But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. **23** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. **24** And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.”

1 Timothy 6:6-10 – “**6** But godliness with contentment is great gain. **7** **For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.** **8** And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. **9** **But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.** **10** **For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”**

We should not covet

Exodus 20:17 – “**Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.**”

1 Corinthians 12:28-31 – “**28** And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. **29** Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? **30** Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? **31** **But covet earnestly the best gifts”**

Colossians 3:5 – “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, **and covetousness, which is idolatry”**

1 Timothy 3:1-4 – “**1** This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. **2** For men shall be lovers of their own selves, **covetous**, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, **3** Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, **4** Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures** more than lovers of God”

Hebrews 13:5 – “**Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have:** for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

Greed, idolatry, and covetousness may put our eternal salvation at risk

Matthew 16:24-26 – “**24** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. **25** For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. **26** **For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”**

Acts 5:1-11 – “**1** But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, **2** And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. **3** But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? **4** Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it

not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. **5** **And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost:** and great fear came on all them that heard these things. **6** And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. **7** And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. **8** And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. **9** Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. **10** **Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost:** and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. **11** And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.”

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 – “**9** Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, **nor idolaters**, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, **10** Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

Galatians 5:19-21 – “**19** Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, **20** **Idolatry**, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, **21** Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Ephesians 5:5-7 – “**3** But fornication, and all uncleanness, or **covetousness**, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; **4** Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. **5** For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, **nor covetous man, who is an idolater**, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. **6** Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. **7** Be not ye therefore partakers with them.”

Philippians 3:18-19 – “**18** (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: **19** **Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly**, and whose glory is in their shame, **who mind earthly things**.)

Colossians 3:2-6 – “**2** **Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.** **3** For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. **5** Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, **and covetousness, which is idolatry:** **6** For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience”

We must be prepared to give up possessions in our lives

Alma 10:107 – “**107** And it came to pass that Alma and Amulek, Amulek **having forsaken all his gold, and silver, and his precious things**, which were in the land of Ammonihah, for the word of God, he being rejected by those which were once his friends, and also by his father and his kindred”

Genesis 19:23-26 – “**23** The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar. **24** Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; **25**

And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. **26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.**”

Luke 9:57-62 – “**57** And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. **58** And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. **59** And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. **60** Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. **61** And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. **62** And Jesus said unto him, **No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**”

Luke 17:22-33 – “**22** And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it. **23** And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them. **24** For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day. **25** But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation. **26** And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. **27** They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. **28** Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; **29** But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. **30** Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. **31** **In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. **32** Remember Lot's wife. **33** Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.**”

“Remember Lot’s Wife”, Ted E. Bowling, January 1996

<http://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Library.sr/CT/PW/k/498/Remember-Lots-Wife.htm>

“Sometime in the not-too-distant future, we will be tested as Lot and his family were. When God calls for us to flee, we may have family members living hundreds of miles away. Children may be at college in another state. A spouse may be away on a business trip—or a few miles away at work. Will we have the faith to put those family members' lives in God's hands and leave without hesitation? Are we convinced that God will provide a way of escape for us as well as them? If we really trust God, even though we cannot see the future clearly, we have nothing to fear.”

“Today, on Jebel Usdum (Hill of Sodom) on the Dead Sea's western shore, stands a pillar of salt known as "Lot's Wife." This monument is a perpetual reminder of a woman who allowed her human nature to turn her from the express command of God. In a critical moment she took her eyes off the goal. Christ warns that we cannot allow the same to happen to us.”

“We have an even greater goal than our physical safety, and because our eternal life is at stake, we must always keep it as our first priority.”

Manifestation/Dream, Elder Merlin Eddy

Taken from *Zion's Advocate*, November-December 2008 Volume 85, Number 6:

“This is a dream that I had one night. I am not sure of the exact date but it was late June or early July. The dream was not long before the Tri-State Reunion on 7 July 2006.”

“The scene in my dream was a vast expanse of clear ice. The ice was smooth and had no snow cover. Crossing this expanse of ice was a line of people. I could not determine who any of these people were but I could see that there were men and women, both young and old. Those that I saw were slowly walking in a single straight line, as if there was a path across the ice. All of the people on the path were carrying or pulling luggage. There were groups in this line of people that seemed to be family members and friends, as I could hear some talking and laughing. I could not see the beginning of the line of people or any edge of the expanse of ice as it was beyond my sight. The destination of this line of people was a large rock island that I could see in the distance. On this rock island was built a structure that looked like a castle made of stone.”

“Suddenly, and without warning, a fierce wind blew across the line of people. The people were being blown off the path as there was no traction on the ice. A few in the line were prepared and as the wind started they let go of the luggage they had and laid face down on the ice. Those that were prepared cried out to the others to let go of their luggage and lay flat on the ice so the wind would not sweep them away. Some lay on the ice but would not let go of their luggage and, as the wind caught the luggage, they continued to be blown off the path. Others were trying to crouch and walk into the wind but they were blown faster off of the path. I could hear screaming and crying for those who would not listen to those who were prepared and those who obeyed them, because they continued being swept off by the fierce and steady wind.”

“Those who were prepared for the wind had two picks, one in each hand, which they plunged into the ice and could hold themselves in place. Some held on to those with the picks and they were not swept away. I could see some that were close enough to the island that they could hold on to the rocky outcroppings and hold fast against the wind. But all of those that would not obey the cries of those who were prepared, and the cries of the obedient, were swept off until they were out of my sight. They would not let go of their luggage and lay down on the ice. There was much sorrow for the friends and family members that were swept off by the fierce and steady wind that suddenly swept across the path. This is where the dream ended.”

“I do not have a personal witness that this dream is from God but, as I testified at the Tri-State Reunion, it may be a warning for us to prepare for an event that will greatly test our faith. How willing are we to give up our possessions and positions if called upon to do so, that we will not be swept off the path?”

Editor's Note: By Conference action this dream was accepted as being from God.

IDOLS IN OUR LIVES

Anything can be an idol if we put it before God in our lives, or give it our #1 attention and thought. Some examples:

- Our career
- Money
- Our talents
- Our home or land
- Our vacation spots
- Our automobiles
- Our bodies

- Our achievements
- Our spouse, parents, children
- Electronic gadgets
- Actors & actresses
- Our hobbies
- A political party
- What we create with our hands
- Leisure
- Retirement
- Fashion
- Food
- Sports
- The music (or musical artists) we listen to
- Our Alma Mater
- The Pope
- Our Pastors, Elders, Apostles, etc.

DO WE DO THESE THINGS?

- Always thinking of ways to make, or obtain more money?
- Do we resent others that acquire what we would like to have?
- Not trust that the Lord will provide for us?
- Not give money to the Lord, or share what God gives us with others?
- Do we give all of our effort to things that do not last, or things that are eternal?

DO THESE TELEVISION SHOWS PROMOTE GREED & IDOLATRY?

- American Idol?
- The Apprentice?
- What about an ‘innocent’ program like Antiques Roadshow?
- Others?

SOLUTIONS TO GREED & IDOLATRY

- Be content with what God has blessed us with
- Pray for God to give us strength against these things
- Focus on “treasure in heaven”, rather than our treasure in this life; think of our future reward
- Avoid those things, or those situations that may promote greed and idolatry