

Moth, Rust, and Thief

Taylor Houser / Devotional

Happy Friday, and good morning everyone. Today I want to talk about things. That is to say, stuff, items, physical goods. Everyone has some things, some of us have a lot, and, given how often new storage facilities pop up, plenty of us have too many things.

Now I want to start off by saying that there is nothing intrinsically wrong with having possessions and enjoying them. In fact, they are good. Each and every thing you have is a gift from a loving and caring God. And it is a blessing to use and enjoy what God has made. But it is important we keep the right attitude about things and keep them in the proper relationship to ourselves and to God. In modern society that is driven by mass production and marketing, it is all too easy to be swept away in materialism. Materialism here meaning over-valuing items and things, fawning over them, their procurement, or the hoarding thereof. But what does God have to say about things? Jesus says in [Matthew 6:19-21](#) “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.” He says again in [Luke 12:15](#), “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” And Paul says in [1 Timothy 6:6-8](#) “But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.”

The notion is clear: things are ephemeral. They will come, and they will go. How many things from your youth do you still have? Perhaps some, but how much more came and went through the years? And even if we kept the blanket we were swaddled in till we were buried with it, and I know a few people who have in fact held onto baby blankets, what is that span—one mortal life—compared to the eternity we will spend with Jesus, our brothers and sisters in the faith, and the whole host of Heaven come the Second Coming? As long as we understand that the things we have been given are temporary, perhaps you could even say leased to us, and that the only “thing” which is eternal (having

no beginning or end, whereas our souls, though immortal in our final destination [annihilationists notwithstanding], had a beginning) is God, our creator, we would do well even in this faithless generation.

As you go about your day today, think about all the things which have graced your life, both the things you have now and have had in the past. Offer God thanks for His good gifts which He gave you for a time to enjoy. Consider anything you may have in over abundance or excess, are there people you know who could use them more than you? Or is there a donation center nearby accepting said items? Is there any item you might be *too* fond of, something close to being made an idol? Lord God, we offer you thanks for the things you have given to us. We thank you for your graciousness and love which lay behind every gift. Help us, Lord, to enjoy those gifts appropriately. Let us not put them first, before you. Keep our hearts soft towards you and your Son, Jesus Christ, and keep our eyes set on that everlasting glory which you've promised to each believer.