

LESSON 18 Devotional

Setting Your Mind on Things Above

The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the Colossians instructing them on how to live holy lives. He had to first set the stage. In chapter 3 we read, *“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”*

In the business world, the earthly things that consume most business leader’s thoughts and attention is profit. If we desire to be unconventional business leaders who are pleasing God in all aspects of our lives, setting our minds on things above provides us a great opportunity to shine the light of Christ into the marketplace.

The problem, however, is that we often get caught up in the culture of the world so much that we get desensitized to how ugly the earthly things really are in contrast to the “things above.” When this happens, people are often sacrificed for the sake of profits.

In a Boston Legal episode, the attorney Denny Crain is confronted with a dilemma. Denny learns that a drug company he represents has performed some secret drug trials on people without their knowledge. The drugs ultimately cost lives, but this drug company is Denny’s largest client.

When another attorney challenges Denny to do the right thing he initially refuses. His rationale was that he had selected a cabin in the mountains he was going to buy from the proceeds of this client’s fees. He didn’t want to jeopardize his client relationship even though their actions caused the death of multiple patients. His pursuit of earthly treasure clouded his judgment.

We need profits to sustain our businesses, but when we pursue profits to the point of damaging relationships, and the lives of people, we have crossed a line that has eternal consequences. God has a better plan for us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Colossians 3:5-17 as a group. What are the items Paul lists as earthly things?

2. In what ways does the earthly list negatively impact the business world?

3. Contrast that list to the items Paul lists as holy.

4. How might you insert Paul's holy list into your workplaces?
