

POTENTIAL DANGER IN ALL OUR BLESSINGS

by Gus Nichols

INTRODUCTION:

1. Life is like an unbanistered bridge: if we go too far either to the right or to the left, we land in destruction below. Our blessings often are an occasion to abuse the blessing and do wrong.
2. Samson's strength seems to have been the cause of his moral weakness. Relate the story: (1) Samson's birth. Judges 13. (2) Samson's strength and victory. Judge 14. (3) Samson a man of vengeance. Judges 15. (4) Samson's escape, Delilah's opportunity, and Sampson's death. Judges 16. His great strength became his temptation - his weakness.
3. *When Good Things Are Perverted And Misused, They Become A Curse Unto Man.* Let's consider some of these good things:

I. GREAT INTELLECT — higher education and excessive knowledge may become a curse.

- A. The safety of the powerful locomotive depends upon who is at the throttle. Automobile - drunk at the wheel?
- B. Education is power, and if God be not at the throttle of such a life, it is bound to be a curse. Jer. 10: 23 ; 1 Cor. 1:18-21; 3 :18-20.
- C. Few great men are ever true Christians. 1 Cor. 1:26.
- D. One cannot be a Christian without being humble and as teachable as a child. Matt. 11:25, 26;18 :1-4.
- E. Knowledge puffs up - ministers to pride - if not constantly on guard against it. "Knowledge puffeth up." 1 Cor. 8:1. Many lost to modernism because could not manage much worldly learning, nor resist the influence of wordly men as their teachers. Knowledge is a blessing, but it has its temptations also - its potential danger!

II. TIME — a great blessing, yet, if misused it becomes a curse.

Eph. 5:16. "Redeeming the time." The same time used by one to prepare to be a great surgeon may be used by another to learn to be a bank robber, etc. If we did not have the blessing called "time" it could not be misused, etc.

III. WEALTH — a great blessing; often becomes a great curse.

1 Tim. 6 :5-19 ; Matt. 19 :16-30 ; Heb. 13 :5, 6 ; Lk. 8 :14.

IV. AUTHORITY — a good thing which is often perverted into a curse.

3 Jno. 9, 10. Prov. 29:2: "When the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn."
Overbearing husbands, bosses, officers, etc.

V. GREAT BEAUTY or PERSONALITY — good in some ways, but when perverted to a sinful purpose becomes a curse.

Possible means of deception, adultery, etc. Prov. 30 :30 ; 11:22.

VI. GREAT POPULARITY, REPUTATION AND WORLDLY HONOR — may lead to dangerous compromises of the truth and of character.

The world usually has a strong pull at the heartstrings of such people. Ex. 23:2;
Jn. 12:42, 43; 1 Cor. 1:26 ; Prov. 22 :1.

VII. A GOOD MORAL LIFE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY — may cause one to despise "publicans and sinners."

Like the man in Lk. 18:9-14.

VIII. FINE CLOTHES, CARS, HOMES, MEETING HOUSES — fraught with danger.

If depend upon these, rather than upon personal faith, devotion, godly life, soul winning, etc., they become a curse. 1 Jno. 2:15-17. The rich man in Luke 16 had the finest of clothes.

IX. LOYALTY TO HOME AND DUTY — can cause hate, jealousy, etc. among family members.

Caused the elder son to despise his wayward and prodigal brother. Lk. 15:11-31.

X. GREAT TALENT, FINE PERSONALITY, VOICE — can cause great harm to self and others.

If keeps preacher from study, will ruin him. 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Tim. 4:12-16;
If unused in God's service and for his glory. Matt. 25 :14-30.
If used to lead other astray. Rom. 16-17-18.
If used for show - to be seen and heard of men. Matt. 6:1-8; Mk. 12:38-40.

XI. GOOD HEALTH RIGHT NOW — may keep some from obeying the Lord; a curse if substitute it for obedience and service to God.

See Prov. 27:1.