

“Cares, Riches & Pleasures of Life”

by Wayne Goff

“Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.” Luke 8:14

America is a nation of untold wealth, and we have been made richer and richer in my lifetime. We have more clothes, bigger houses, fancier cars and trucks, and all the electronic gadgets anyone could dream of. These things can be used to the glory of God, but I fear that Americans have largely forgotten God in the midst of their great wealth. Too many have the attitude of “When I have a convenient season, I will call for God.”

I encourage you to read carefully Deuteronomy 28. It contains the **“blessings and cursings”** of God upon Israel. It reminds us that *all of our blessings* come from God, and He will *bountifully reward us* if we will follow His commandments. *“Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God” (28:1–2).*

Similarly, God promised “curses” if Israel failed to obey God. *“But it shall come to pass, if you **do not obey** the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you” (28:15).*

Let this serve as a warning to all Christians in America. Do not get bogged down with the cares, riches and pleasures of life and put down God’s laws and commandments. Follow them all the more diligently and be wiser than those who do not. **A question for you to consider: “Do you truly put God first in your life?”**

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