

## "I Don't Need Much, And I Won't Need That For Long!"

by Wayne Goff

*Happy Father's Day to all the godly fathers in the world. May God increase their numbers!*

### "Dubisms"

My aunt Naomi gave my father a picture of the time he preached in Napa, California at the young age of 32 and on the back she listed a number of his unique sayings which she called "Dubisms." His given name was simply two initials — A.W. — and his nickname was "Dub" — short for "W." All his family called him Dub. I called him "Dad."

Many of his expressions were based either on his rural raising in Northeast Arkansas or the Bible itself. Some of them he must have picked up from various and sundry places; others I'm convinced he made up on his own. His preaching was unique in itself. It contained a deep love for the truth but often expressed in unique ways. Some would cause you to laugh out loud. But all of them would get your attention and make you think.

### Possessions

Later in life, Dad made the statement repeatedly regarding his earthly possessions: "Well, I don't need much, and I won't need that for very long!" **Covetousness** and **greed** are two of the most destructive attitudes, and many people have been deceived by the importance of "things."

His expression was borne of Paul's statement in **1 Timothy 6**: "*Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content*" (**1 Timothy 6:6-8**). I'm pretty sure he was the first one that I heard make the statement: "There are no U-Hauls behind the hearse!" And like so many preachers he constantly quoted **Matthew 6:33** — "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*" It grieved him to see so many brethren give "lip service" to Christ and His church while sacrificing much of the spiritual to obtain more things.

Don't get me wrong. Dad wasn't opposed to owning things, he just didn't think they should own him! He built two beautiful houses while living in Russellville, but his **love** was for an eternal home. "*These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city*" (**Hebrews 11:13-16**).

I remember hearing Dad preach on possessions often, and he would remark about a fellow, real or imagined, who heard that when he died, he would not be able to take his possessions with him. The fellow responded: "Well, if I can't take them with me, then I'm not going!" — But he did. Simple illustrations like that punctuated his preaching and made his sermons memorable.

### Your Priorities?

Dear reader, I hope and pray that your priorities in life are (1) God; (2) Church; (3) Family; (4) Others; (5) Self. Jobs and possessions are "tools" by which to bless your family and others. They are **not** an end in themselves. The 2,000-year-old warning of the apostle Paul still rings true today: "*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows*" (**1 Timothy 6:10**). If you think this is not a problem, then go back and read the pitiful story of Achan, from the tribe of Judah, who cost the lives of many over "*a beautiful Babylonian garment,*" and some gold and silver (**Joshua 7**).

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