

Don't Unnecessarily Add Distractions To Your Life

I. Introduction:

A. It is a wonderful thing that we live under what is called “the perfect law of liberty” (**James 1:25; 2:12**).

1. The word translated “liberty” [ἐλευθερία] means: “freedom (legitimate or licentious, chiefly moral or ceremonial): — liberty...” (Strong’s # 1657).
2. Unlike the law of Moses, which was a law of bondage (**Galatians 4:1-31**); in Christ we are not burdened with a heavy law (**Matthew 11:28-30, Romans 8:1-2, and I John 5:1-3**; cf. **Acts 15:22-28**).

B. When we engage in more and more lawful activities, our attention has to turn to those activities (**Deuteronomy 20:5-7**).

1. In Christ, we have plenty of authorized liberties that are lawful; but certainly take much of our attention (i.e. **I Corinthians 7:32-34**).
2. Even the things that bring us great joy (i.e. **Proverbs 15:20**), can become overwhelmingly time consuming (**Proverbs 29:15** and **Titus 2:3-5**).

II. Body: Considering what Paul instructed the evangelist Timothy not to do (**II Timothy 2:3-4**).

A. What can we learn from this principle in the “Parable of the Sower” (**Mark 4:18-19** and **Luke 8:14**)?

1. You cannot proclaim to love God if you love things of this world (**I John 2:15-17**).
2. Think about the phrase “denying ungodliness and worldly lusts” (**Titus 2:11-14**).

B. What happens when the lawful pursuit to provide for one’s self and family (**Ephesians 4:28, II Thessalonians 3:10, and I Timothy 5:8**) turns into the pursuit of wealth (**I Timothy 6:6-12**)?

1. How about, in addition to pursuing wealth, the worldly need to “be accomplished” or to be seen as “important” or being “popular” (**Matthew 20:20-28, Galatians 5:24, I Peter 4:1-5, and I John 3:13**)?
2. How about, in addition to pursuing wealth, buying into the idea of “keeping up with the Joneses” (**Romans 12:1-3**).

C. Don't fuel the wrong side of the internal battle (**Romans 14:13-14, Galatians 5:16-17, and I Peter 2:11**)!

1. We don't “live after the flesh” (**Romans 8:12-13**).
2. Remembering that what our flesh desires can be deceptive (**Ephesians 4:22**).

D. We need to balance enjoying this life (**I Peter 3:10-11**) with not becoming overly invested in this life (**II Timothy 4:10**).

1. We are just passing through this world (**I Peter 1:12-17**).

2. Let your the way you live be a statement that you are seeking things above (**Hebrews 11:8-16**).

III. Conclusion: Are you too busy (**Luke 14:12-33**)?