

The Best Things In Life Are Free!

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➤ Intro:

- **illus.:** boat, hobby, when with family and friends really enjoyed, but when by self learned that money can't but the best things in life
 - money can buy things, but not the best things
- **this lesson:** The Best Things in Life Are Free

➤ Money can't buy beauty!

- **beauty of God is eternal – doesn't perish – can't purchase**
 - **God is the essence of beauty:**
 - **Is. 4:2a** (prophesy of Jesus) In that day the **Branch of the Lord** will be **beautiful** and glorious. . . .
 - **church (Christians) are beautiful:**
 - chaste virgin, the household of God, habitation of God in the Spirit
 - **human physical beauty passes away: – like rich man in his pursuits**
 - **Ja. 1:11** rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away
- **beauty of the earth declares God's splendor – beauty man can't purchase or create**
 - **Ps. 8:1** earth displays the Lord's splendor, above the heavens
 - **illus.: watch a movie v. watch a sunset at the beach**
- **true human beauty is of the inner person, not outward – can't purchase**
 - **illus.: true beauty is inside**
 - **Charles William Eliot** (1834-1926), **former president of Harvard** University, had a **birthmark on his face** that **bothered him greatly**. As a young man, he was told that **surgeons could do nothing** to remove it. Someone described that moment as "the dark hour of his soul." **Eliot's mother** gave him this helpful advice: "**My son, it is not possible for you to get rid of that hardship...But it is possible for you, with God's help, to grow a mind and soul so big that people will forget to look at your face.**" (Our Daily Bread, June 15, 1992) (SermonIllustrations.com)
 - **1 Pet. 3:3-4** (women, applies to all) Your adornment must **not be merely external** . . . but let it be the **hidden person of the heart**, with the **imperishable quality** of a **gentle and quiet spirit**, which is **precious in the sight of God**.
 - people usually look at outward beauty, but God looks at inner beauty

➤ Money can't buy **happiness (contentment, fulfillment)!**

- **most people aren't happy**

- **illus.: Dennis Wholey**, author of Are You Happy? reports that according to expert opinion, perhaps only 20% of Americans are happy. (Our Daily Bread, October 11, 1994) (SermonIllustrations.com)

- **illus.: Elvis Presley**, 6 weeks before he died, a reporter asked Elvis Presley, "Elvis, when you first started playing music, you said you wanted to be rich, famous and happy. Are you happy?" "I'm lonely (*expletive deleted*)" he replied. (Source Unknown) (SermonIllustrations.com)

- **Matt. 7:13-14, 21-23, 24-27** **most people aren't happy because** they're not living as God commands
- **if we're not happy**, it tells us we need to do some serious spiritual work on our lives

- **happiness is a condition of the mind**, a lifestyle, a perspective from which life is lived – can't purchase

- **Ja. 1:2-4** "consider" ("count it") all joy – the way we're to look at it, view it, focus on the positive

- **glass 1/2 full or empty**

- Abraham Lincoln, "Most people are about as **happy as they make up their minds to be.**"

- **happiness results from devoting ourselves to God**, doing His will, living the way he commands – can't purchase

- **1 Pet. 5:6-7** **casting care** upon God, being **exalted** according to his will

- **illus.: Who is happy (blessed)? – Beatitudes** (Matt. 5:3-11)

- **gentle**: shall inherit the earth

- **hunger and thirst for righteousness**: satisfied (filled)

- **merciful**: shall receive mercy

- **pure in heart**: see God

- **peacemakers**: called sons of God

- **persecuted for the sake of righteousness**: theirs is the kingdom of heaven, reward in heaven is great

- **anyone who isn't happy today**, can become happy, if they'll only live as God commands

- **secret to happiness**: obey God, trust in Him, cast your cares on Him

- **happiness can't be purchased** – gift

➤ **Money can't buy love!**

- **illus.:** money can't buy love, usually the opposite happens with money

- “Almost **half of America's rich say they're unhappy in marriage**, a study found. What's worse: **More than that say they've been unfaithful in the last three years**” (Rich and Unfaithful: Money Can't Buy Love, By Tara Weiss, Forbes.com, Oct. 17, 2007, Special to ABCNEWS.com)

- **true love results from our devotion to God – free, not bought**

- **Mk. 12:30-31** love **God** / love **neighbor** as self

- **do what's best for the other party, every time** – world opposite view

- **Matt. 5:44** love your **enemies**, pray for those who persecute you

- **love** – world opposite view

- **Rom. 12:20** **enemy** hungry, feed him; thirsty, give drink

- **love** – world opposite view

- **Eph. 5:22** **wives** subject themselves to husbands, as to Lord

- **love** – world opposite view

- **Eph. 5:25-29** **husbands** love wives as Christ loves the church, give self up for her, nourish and cherish

- **love** – world opposite view

- **Eph. 6:1** **children** obey parents in the Lord, for this is right

- **love** – world opposite view

- **Eph. 6:4** **Fathers (parents)**, not provoke children to anger, bring up in discipline and instruction of Lord

- **love** – world opposite view

➤ - **true love is the sacrificial and giving love God has for us – free, not bought**

- **1 Jn. 4:7-11** God's love, our love for others

- **Christ, cross, bearing our sins in His body, God didn't save Him from excruciatingly painful death**

- **1 Jn. 5:3** our love for God, attitude

- **Jn. 14:15** (Jesus) love Me, keep My commandments

- **Jn. 14:21a** (Jesus) He who has My commandments and keeps them, loves Me

- **love is free – given, received – not bought**

- **illus.:** God loved us while yet sinners, couldn't buy His love if we had to

- **if anyone wants you to pay for their love, is not real love**

- **illus.:** I'll love you if you'll just. . . . - **Jn. 3:16**

- **when we love others as God has loves us . . . change our lives . . . change other's lives . . .**

- **illus.:** Ted Stallard and his teacher, Miss Thompson (attached)

- **Money can't buy eternal life – salvation!**
 - can't buy God's love – can't buy salvation
 - salvation is a free gift – can't purchase
 - **Rom. 3:24** justified, gift by His grace, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus
- - **Rom. 5:17** people who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness, will reign in life through Jesus Christ
- - **Rom. 6:23** wages of sin is death, free gift of God is eternal life in Christ
- - we must receive the gift of salvation (do something) – can't purchase, must obey Jesus
 - **illus.: Dawn, 4 or 5, dollar bill**, told her she could have it if she picked it up off the floor, she did, asked “Did I give it to you?” she said yes – did not earn, although had to do something to receive
 - **illus.: boy has a birthday party**, a lot of presents wrapped to beautiful paper, What does he have to do to receive the gifts? unwrap them – did not earn, or wouldn't be gift, although had to do something to receive
 - **Heb. 5:9** Jesus is the source of eternal salvation to those who obey Him
- - the gift of salvation is free to you, because Jesus paid the price – someone had to pay
 - **1 Pet. 1:18-19** redeemed (purchased), blood of Jesus
- - **1 Pet. 2:24** bore your sins in His body on the cross, by His stripes you were healed
- - the best thing of all can't be bought– salvation, eternal life – must receive the gift
- **Summary / Inv.**
 - money can't buy beauty, happiness, love, eternal life
 - God wants to give all these to you, and more
 - **inv.:** possible because Jesus died on the cross to pay for your salvation
 - receive by obeying Him, living as He commands