

**I. Perhaps the greatest corruption of the American Dream is: overconsumption.**

**Haggai 1:5-6 NIV** <sup>5</sup> Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. <sup>6</sup> You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."

**Scary Facts:**

- 1.) Estimated consumer debt per household is \$19 thousand.
- 2.) The average consumer spends 20 % more than they make.
- 3.) Estimated national debt is 16 trillion.
- 4.) To cover the 2010 deficit taxes would have to be raised 144 %.

**I Tim 6:9-10 NLT** <sup>9</sup> But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

**II. Character and morals are essential for capitalism to function correctly. ~ Adam Smith**

**Galatians 6:8 NLT** <sup>8</sup> Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.

**III. The blessed life is a fulfilled life focused on God and others.**

**IV. Keys to living a blessed life:**

- 1.) Understand that God wants to bless you in all areas of your life.

**Jer 29:11 NLT** <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

**III John 1:2 NLT** <sup>2</sup> Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit.

- 2.) We must follow God's principles to receive God's blessings (first fruit principle).

**Genesis 4:3-5 NLT** <sup>3</sup> When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Abel also brought a gift—the best of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, <sup>5</sup> but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

**V. How much of your first fruits should you give? The tithe (10%), is a great place to start in order to build a generous, blessed, life.**

**Malachai 3:10 NLT** <sup>10</sup> Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!

**II Cor 9:6-8 NLT** <sup>6</sup> Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. <sup>7</sup> You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." <sup>8</sup> And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.