



Thursday Thought

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“Stuffmart”

Thursday, October 13, 2016

Verse for the week: I Peter 2:11 “Friends, this world is not your home, so don’t make yourselves cozy in it.”

Christmas is coming! In Kmart they already have Christmas trees up and ornaments for sale. I love the Christmas season, the decorations, the food, the gifts and most importantly the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. As a child being raised by a single mom with four rambunctious boys, things were usually pretty tough. On Christmas morning we would wake up ready to go open the presents to see what we would get. We had no clue that socks and underwear, for many people, weren’t actually gifts and so even those excited us. One year things must not have been so tight because I remember my mom giving me the J.C. Penny Catalog and telling me I could circle 3 things that I really wanted. That was almost better than Christmas for me. I looked and looked (kind of like some people look at Pinterest today) to see what I wanted. I circled the three things I wanted and when Christmas came I received one of them and enjoyed playing with it for hours. As an adult I have more elaborate toys. I no longer get to enjoy playing with them for hours like I used to because I’m busy repairing, cleaning, and taking care of them. I have heard it said that **“The more you own, the more it owns you!”** and that is so true. Yet so often we want more, more, more. We like going to the “Stuffmart” and buying more stuff and before we know it our lives are consumed with just taking care of all that stuff. We think all these things will make us happy but in reality, we end up losing focus on what’s really important and when that happens, things fall apart. **1 Timothy 6:9 (NLT)** says, **“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.”** I think the minimalists may be on to something.

As we look forward to Christmas, instead of focusing on all the stuff we want, let’s start focusing on what’s important:

- Our relationship with God
 - Our Families
- Our relationships with others

Question to ask yourself: What is there that you really want, that in the grand scheme of things isn’t all that important and will actually distract you from what is important?