



*"Be not conformed to this age, but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind."*

(Romans 12:2)

## SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY

### WHAT IS "SUCCESS"

To a primitive native in a South American jungle, success may be bringing home a monkey to eat, or a few yams, or a basket of sago palm grubs (maggots) to feed his family for the day. To some families in the Middle East, success may be staying alive in their meager dwelling and escaping the US and Saudi financed terrorists one more day. To some on the other end of the spectrum in another part of the world, success may be a million dollars in savings, and a fixed retirement fund.

What one man considers "success" in one culture can be very different from what another man considers "success" in another culture. It depends on how people think in their particular culture or society. Success in any man's mind is determined by the value system he goes by.

The idea of success, as it is perceived in America, is evolving. Only a couple of generations ago a family was happy to have a home (owned or rented), a decent car, the means to keep the home warm in the winter, and provide clothes and food for themselves. In contrast, today the average American family expects a bigger house with central heating and cooling, two newer cars, more clothes, and a budget that allows them to eat at restaurants instead of at home, a health insurance plan, life insurance, a large savings account, and a retirement plan.

I give these examples only to show how the idea of "success" and "prosperity" varies greatly from one culture to another, and one time to another. All people want to succeed, but how, or who, measures it?

The point that I really want to focus upon is **spiritual measurement**, and how that, more than anything, affects a man's perception of success. Spiritual values, as defined in God's laws, don't evolve. They are simple and constant.

If a man's sense of success is based on the Beast System it will be very different from one based upon God's system. It is absolutely imperative that you understand this if you want to be happy and truly prosperous.

7. *Only be you strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my*

*servant commanded you: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.*

8. *This book of the law shall not remove from your mouth; but you shall meditate therein day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success.*

Joshua 1:7, 8

Perception is everything. True success and prosperity is based first upon the spiritual perception of truth. Jesus said that truth makes us free ... and freedom is the key to happiness and true success. Whether you have a lot of money, or a little of it, in either case the **ONLY** way your life can be truly successful and prosperous is if you love God's spiritual value system. Spiritual riches are **MUCH** more important than material riches.

The Beast System's values drive men to seek material riches. But unhappy and empty lives are universally common among the rich. For example, Luke 18:18-25:

18. *And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Teacher, what do I do to inherit eonian life? (i.e., life in Christ)*

22. *... He (Jesus) said to him, ... you have so much, sell (some) and distribute to the poor, and you shall have treasure in the heavens: and come, follow me.*

23. *But hearing these things, he becomes very sorrowful: for he was very rich.*

24. *But seeing him Jesus becomes very sorrowful, and says, How difficult shall they that have riches go into the kingship of God!*

25. *For it is easier for a rope to go into a needle's eye, than for a rich man to go into the kingship of God.*

This is the quintessential example showing the sorrow and spiritual poverty of the typical rich man. Jesus tells us

that it is very difficult for a rich man to find eonian life ("life of the age," i.e. the new life in Christ). God's values and the Beast System's values are mutually exclusive. I've observed that lives obsessed with money usually end up disappointed and enslaved to the Beast System.

## TRAINING TO BE SLAVES

When I was young, back in the '50s, it was common to hear a parent say, "I want my child to get a better education so he can get a better career and make more money than me, and not have to work so hard." Education is a good thing, but not enough consideration is given to the kind of education children are getting. A child's education comes from many sources. Parents in the '50s typically assumed that they hadn't had enough public schooling which they thought was needed to get ahead financially.

They didn't realize that it was a blessing to NOT be in the school system ... that it was this very thing that kept them relatively immune from the Beast System. Later we came to realize the actual purpose of public schools. They were designed to brainwash children and enslave them to a system controlled by a few elite, super rich families. It is still the same today. A few elite families rule over the nations and governments. The common people are kept in a perpetual state of brainwash and confusion. Back in the '50s, families had a much greater likelihood of being happy and sane. I feel sorry for children growing up in today's world. They have less chance of a happy life.

Public schools and colleges set us up for a life of godlessness. They kill faith and rob our children of their creative potential and the ability to think clearly and solve problems. This was proven recently, but not widely published, in a study done by NASA. They developed an accurate test to measure the creative potential of people and ability to solve problems. They needed a metric to measure the genius of people so they could pick and recruit the best and brightest people to work for them at NASA. Was it a genetic trait? The result of life experience? Or something else?

Because the NASA test was so simple, it could actually be applied to any age group. So they decided to also run the test on some children. They found 1,600 children between the ages of 4 and 5, and applied the test to them to measure their intellect. What they found shocked them. Out of the 1,600 kids that were 4 to 5 years old that took the test, 98% of them scored at genius level for creativity and problem solving.

The team decided to turn this test into a longitudinal study, and give the same group of children the same test 5 years later. These same children, by now in grade school, had rapidly declined to just 30% genius! The same study was conducted again 5 years later on the same group of kids, by now in high school, and they had dropped all the way down to just 12% in creativity and problem solving!

Then they decided to conduct this same test on adults aged 25 and up (with an average age of 31). After numerous studies, what they invariably found, was that less than 2% of all adults had the genius for creativity and problem solving that they had as kids. And for those who question the

consistency of these results, or think they may be isolated incidences, these results have actually been replicated over a million times!

The implications of this profound study are rather self evident. God gives children the potential of creative genius, but the moment kids enter the public school system they start getting dumbed down. Public school, as we plainly call it, is an institution that has historically been put in place to serve the needs and wants of the ruling class, not the needs of the common people. Whether it be ancient Sparta, Germanic Prussia, or the more modern industrial American system, public education has always served as a "legal" means of mass indoctrination and mental enslavement.

I've often written about the "walking dead" ... i.e., those who do not have eonian life (the life of Christ). Eonian life is explained in John 1:4-5 and John 5:24-26. What the public schools and corporate America do to people is horrible. They kill Americans spiritually. It is the Beast System's way of enslaving the public. It has done the same thing down through the ages, with different means in different centuries, but the result has always been the same. The rulers, in order to keep their power, must spiritually kill the minds of their subjects by turning them into the walking dead. And the only way to put life into them is for them to turn to Jesus and receive "eonian life" and "light." This new life causes them to hate the Beast System and stop following and believing in it. Instead they have faith in Jesus. This, then, leads to true spiritual success and prosperity. Happiness!

## MY BLESSED HOME

I was blessed! My father, as a child, attended a one-room school house and completed only through the 4th grade at which time he had to quit school and go to work. He always wished he had more schooling and he encouraged me to pursue schooling because he thought it would provide opportunities for success. He wanted me to be more "successful" than he thought he was. He probably didn't realize that he was a great success as a father.

Starting before I was born, the Beast System's propaganda machine had been brainwashing people to admire those who had a college education and were able to make connections with big emerging companies, corporations, and government agencies.

In those days people didn't realize the real purpose of the public school system and universities. Later we began to realize that they were designed to steal the minds and hearts of children, and rob them of their common sense and their God-given ability to think right. Government schools also destroy a child's respect for his parents and for God.

Dad never had a lot of money. He never had a savings account. We weren't poor, but we were far from rich. But we were always well fed, well clothed, and our home was a clean, comfortable and happy place of safety. Mom and Dad made it so. I now realize that they were able to do this because our way of thinking was oriented toward Christ, not toward the Beast System. Our home had genuine love and sanity. I noticed that many other homes didn't have that. I now realize that the fact that Dad escaped the public school system early in his life was what made it possible for us to

have a healthy home life. By getting out of the school system, Dad escaped the Beast's plan to brainwash him. He had unwittingly saved himself and his family from being injured and enslaved into the Beast System. When I was older I came to realize that there is something more important than material riches, namely spiritual riches. To the ecclesia in Smyrna Jesus said through his messenger:

*9. I know your works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but you are rich) ...*

Revelation 2:8-9

And to the ecclesia in Laodicia he said:

*17. Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

Revelation 3:17

Those who chase riches are typically poor, wretched, miserable, blind and naked spiritually. In contrast, our home was rich in the ways that count. We were blessed and rich because our minds were not sold out to the Beast System.

Dad taught himself the things needed to make his way in life, and he taught his boys these values. He was able to do this because the Beast System hadn't taken possession of his mind when he was a child.

We never had a lot of money because we weren't oriented toward seeking riches at the expense of the more important things. Our home was rich ... rich in love, security, and faith ... not faith in the system, but faith in the right things. Our family didn't spend money on frivolous things we didn't need. And we liked it that way because it made sense to us. Our home was modest but happy, and life was good. Dad and I had time to go fishing together, and talk about things. I learned a lot of important things from Dad.

Dad and Mom raised five healthy boys and provided a happy and blessed home life for us. That kind of happiness and goodness equates to success, and few families find it.

Dad was a rare and great success even if he didn't realize it. I wouldn't go back and trade places with any other family. This was all true because I grew up in a home where Christ lived, love prospered, and where we believed in what was true, rather than what the system taught.

## AN ANCHOR FOR THE SOUL

True success is more of a life quality than an acquisition. It is knowing that you are loved, and that you are solidly connected to the One who created this universe. It is a feeling of freedom and confidence that Christ is your guide. We need that connection in order to feel safe and sound. Otherwise, to what shall we connect ourselves? To some system or institution devised by men? That's just not good enough. It always leaves people feeling lost and unsure. It asks us to depend upon some unknown value dreamed up by unknown men. In men's systems the definition of right and wrong can change hour by hour. The mood of the people in power, in the courts, in the government offices, change often. And if those people control your

view of right and wrong then you are without an anchor. What was right yesterday is no longer right today according to their decisions.

That leaves us with a moving and evolving standard of right and wrong based upon the mood of the public, or the mood of those in power. That is the definition of being lost and without a strong anchor or foundation that doesn't move. Without that anchor people develop mental problems. When people are convinced to accept the Beast System's changing values, their minds cannot develop and function properly. Their minds are no longer "sound."

*18. That ... we might have a strong calling, who have fled away (from the Beast System) for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:*

*19. Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast,*

Hebrews 6:18-19

Avoid any faith in the Beast System. Without the peace of mind that Christ gives, we cannot experience true success. Men may scramble their way to money and positions in the Beast System, but there they cannot find happiness and security and the peace that passes all understanding.

*6. Be anxious about nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

*7. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

*8. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

*9. Those things, which you have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*

Philippians 4:6-9

This mindset, this contentment and quality of life, can be found only in the mind of Christ, and it does not depend upon how the world sees us. This is a quality of life that the Bible calls "eonian life." There is no true success in this life outside of that state of being, and few families find it.

*13. Enter through the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, leading to destruction, and many are those entering through it:*

*14. For small is the gate, and narrow is the way, that leads to life, and few there be that find it.*

Matthew 7:13-14

Having the mind of Christ delivers us from the foolishness of the world.

19. *For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.*

1 Corinthians 3:19

Also, thoughts that are inspired by the Beast System will lead you into a death trap.

12. *There is a way which seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

Proverbs 14:12

Those who think that the Beast System offers security or can provide the good life need to read carefully these words of Jesus:

24. *No man is able to serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or he will be devoted to one, and despise the other. You are not able to serve God and mammon.*

25. *Through this I am saying to you, Be not distracted for your life, what you should eat, or what you should drink; nor for your body, what you should put on. Is not the life more than the food, and the body than clothing?*

32. *For all these things the nations seek after. But your heavenly Father knows that you have need of all these.*

33. *Seek first the kingship of God, and his righteousness; and all these things will be added to you.*

34. *Be not distracted about things of tomorrow: for tomorrow, itself, will have distraction. Sufficient to the day is the trouble thereof.*

Matthew 6:24-25, 32-34

Jesus was not advising us to be careless. Rather, He is teaching us to rely upon God to guide our thinking to know what is truly needed and important in life. Without God's gift of a sound mind we do not know what we really need. We can spend a lifetime chasing after things that we don't really need ... things that cannot make us happy. Also it tells us that needless obsessions lead us to dependence upon the Beast System where there is no happiness.

## **“IN THE FLESH” VS “IN THE SPIRIT”**

5. *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*

6. *For to be fleshly minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

7. *Because the fleshly mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*

8. *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

Romans 8:5-8

Living “in the flesh” is a recipe for misery and failure. The fleshly mind is spiritually dead and cannot find peace and happiness. It is easily led to chasing after the values of the Beast System.

The way to real happiness is explained over and over in Scripture.

5. *Let your manner be without love of money; and be content with what is present: for he has said, I will never leave you, nor forsake you.*

Hebrews 13:5

17. *For the kingship of God is not food and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the holy spirit.*

Romans 14:17

2. *Why do you spend money for that which is not food? and you labor for that which does not satisfy?*

Isaiah 55:2

6. *Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit.*

Ecclesiastes 4:6

16. *Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith.*

Proverbs 15:16

## **TRUE SUCCESS**

We are successful when we avoid being brainwashed by the Beast System, and we can relate to the thoughts of God. Isaiah had this to say about people who were seeking the thoughts of the Beast System:

8. *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD.*

Isaiah 55:7-8

True success and happiness comes from living a simple life rich in spirit, and not led astray after the Beast System.

Jesus explains that if we chase after mammon we will lose sight of our more important goals. But if we seek Christ's Kingship first we will not only have spiritual riches of happiness, sanity, and security, He says He will add to us the material riches we need. Read also James 4:4, 7-8:

4. *... know you not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

7. *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil (i.e., the Beast System), and he will flee from you.*

8. *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.*

I pray that you have eyes to see and ears to hear.

*Ben Williams*