

How to Avoid Being Unprofitable
(Matthew 25:14-30)

Introduction:

1. This morning we studied a number of passages that teach us "how our profiting may appear to all" (1 Timothy 4:12-16).
 - a. We must practice godliness and do good works because they are profitable.
 - b. We must study and learn the Scriptures because they are profitable.
2. In the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) Jesus presented a vivid picture of the judgment.
 - a. 2 of the servants showed by their actions that they were profitable, and they were blessed.
 - b. 1 servant showed by his actions that he was "*unprofitable*," and he was punished (vs.30).
3. This evening we are studying a number of passages that teach us "how to avoid being unprofitable."
4. The Bible addresses a number of things that do not profit, and we are to avoid such things.
5. In our lesson we are considering 5 things that do not profit.

Discussion:

- I. (Matthew 16:26) GAINING THE WORLD WHILE LOSING THE SOUL
 - A. The rich young ruler illustrates this point very well (Matthew 19:22).
 - B. An appropriate warning is given in Luke 12:15.
- II. (1 Corinthians 13:3) DOING GOOD DEEDS WITHOUT LOVE
 - A. This morning we pointed out from Titus 3:8 that good works are profitable.
 - B. However, they must be done with the proper motive -- love.
 - C. A good admonition for us to remember is given in 1 Corinthians 16:14.
- III. (Galatians 5:1-4) SEEKING TO BE JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW OF MOSES
 - A. Christ fulfilled the law and took it out of the way when He died (Colossians 2:14).
 - B. We learn from Hebrews 8:6 that Christ is "*the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.*"
 - C. Let us heed the admonition given in Colossians 3:16a -- "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.*"
- IV. (2 Timothy 2:14) CERTAIN TYPES OF WORDS
 - A. See 1 Timothy 6:3-4; 2 Timothy 2:23; Titus 3:9.
 - B. (Colossians 4:6) "*Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt.*"
- V. (James 2:14-17) FAITH WITHOUT WORKS

Conclusion:

1. These are 5 things that do not profit.
2. Let us avoid these things as well as anything else that does not profit.
3. By all means, let us pursue all things that are profitable.