

CHAP. 7: DETACHMENT

1.    CONTENT

- a. Satan's attack on the church will intensify as the end of the age draws near. Nee suggests that while overt persecution will continue to be employed, the intensification will come more through creating an overwhelming materialistic emphasis which preoccupies people with temporal affairs (Lk. 17:26-29).
- b. The issue, then, is more subtle than whether or not jobs, money, buying, selling, marriage, etc. are wrong - it is whether or not we are preoccupied with them. Modern commerce is especially powerful in fostering this materialistic lust and preoccupation which is a powerful form of spiritual evil in our day. Unless Christians resist this monolithic mentality, it will lead to confusion, loss of peace and an inability to trust God to provide for our material needs.

2.    APPLICATION

- a. Christians must develop the practical ability to trust God with their material needs. Instead of viewing anxiety about material needs as "only normal" or "just being responsible", we accept Jesus' judgment of it as unbelief which denies God's love and power (Matt. 6:25-34). We should build an experiential history of God's material trustworthiness in our lives, and rejoice in the freedom it brings.
- b. Christians must also develop the ability to maintain a spirit of detachment concerning their worldly goods (see I Cor. 7:29-35). We must use these goods, but we should not love them (I Jn. 2:15) and be able to say "no" to the neverending list of pseudo-needs which the world-system presses upon us. Unless we are able to part with any or all of our possessions, our allegiance to Christ is compromised and our effectiveness for Him is diminished (Lk. 14:33).