

handed him, he would live in poverty and go about doing good. So he established an order which people could follow as he went about. In time the the Franciscans were highly regarded because they went about doing good and being happy with whatever was given them. Getting along on little or enjoying more, whatever was given them.

Before St. Francis died a man came into the order who said This is fine; we will have the vow of poverty, we will possess nothing, but they said the Order can't possess things. So the Franciscan Order had gifts given to it and soon had great lands and wonderful buildings, and many of the Franciscans lived on the wealth of the world. And they were all poverty stricken nominally, but actually there came into all parts of the Order all sorts of corruption and defilement.

St. Francis himself toward the end of his life was very much disgusted at the way the Order had gone and the way the Pope had directed the affairs of the Order. To be willing to get along without possessing anything is if that be the Lord's will is right. But the Bible clearly praises those who prepare for the winter, who don't just go through the summer and say Winter will take care of me. Proverbs praises the ant that gathers things together and prepares for winter. It praises those who think ahead and make provisions.

There is nothing wrong with possessing property/ or there is nothing wrong with gathering property that you can use later on. The desire of the eyes is not in itself wrong. It is not of the Father, it is of the world. It has a proper place but it can easily go beyond its proper place. And when a minister is most interested in comparing two columns and which pays him the most, he is in great danger of departing from God's will by giving this a place in his life it should not have.

I was greatly disturbed to hear the account of a minister not far from here within the last few years. I had only heard a little incidentally and read the papers, and so do not wish anything I say about him to be taken by anyone as being necessarily a statement of fact, or necessarily a description of his character or attitudes. Because I am not in a position to speak that way about him.

Nevertheless, it is such an instructive illustration in this regard that I believe I should refer to it as I understand it. As I understand it a man came to the Church of the Open Door not many miles from here and they liked his preaching very much. He gave fine messages. The people were fond of his work. He seemed to be a most satisfactory Christian minister as head of that church which had grown to be quite a sizeable organization. But as time went on they found that many members of the church were becoming quite elderly and needed a place where they could have a certain amount of care and be free of the things which they could easily take care of when they were younger. He decided it was his duty to try to establish a home for older folks.