

Assignment 13

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Assignment 13:1

Davina lives in India where her family practices Hinduism. Davina is married with two school-aged children. She has been attending a Christian church for about 3 months with her children. Her husband finds out and beats her severely and threatens to kill her if she does not give up the faith. The next day she packs up her children's belonging with some of hers and heads to the home of the pastor for help. He finds them a place to live temporarily, and the church members pray over Davina and her children hoping that her husband does not come looking for them and that they can find a safe place for them to live. Davina is scared but prays to God that He keeps them safe.

After a few days, the pastor has secured a place for Davina and her children, and they travel quite a distance to arrive at a home of a Christian couple that is going to help Davina and her children. Davina knows she will have to get a job, but she prays that God gives her strength to start this new life and to raise her children in Christian faith.

Assignment 13:2

When James turned 21 years of age he went to a bar with his friends and had too much to drink. Driving home he crossed into the other lane and hit a car head on killing the young female driver. James was arrested and served 6 months in jail but could not handle the emotional turmoil of killing the young girl and he started doing drugs. Eventually, he became too much for his parents to handle and was kicked out.

James started living on the street and begging for money so he can buy drugs and food. After some time, James became very ill and lay on the sidewalk in front of a business complex where he lay for several days. Many people walked past and ignored him. One day a priest walked by without even acknowledging him. One of the business owners came out and told James to move on because he did not want his kind around. One day a man walked by and noticed James. He took him to the hospital and paid for his care. The next day the man came to the hospital to see how James was doing and James recognized him as the father of the girl he killed. James asked why he wanted to help him after what he did.

The father told James that he and his family had forgiven him and he did not want James to suffer like this. He told James that he wanted to help him with his recovery and a start to a new life.

Assignment 13:3

1Timothy 6:10 “For the love of money is the root to all kinds of evil.”

The letter was written by Paul to Timothy who was leading the church in Ephesus. There were teachers who were motivated by greed and thought of religion as a way to financial gain and not contentment for what we have. As Paul quoted, “For we brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out.” (CSB)

Ephesus was a wealthy capital of the Roman province in Asia. It was one of the largest cities in the Roman era with a bustling trade center and at the center of it was the colossal Temple of Artemis (the fertility goddess) which was a huge religious attraction. Many people made a living off selling shrines and idols of the goddess. Paul was aware of this since when he first preached there an uproar occurred by a silversmith named Demetrius and other silversmiths who made and sold these shrines and idols of the goddess. They thought their business was being jeopardized, and they wanted to get rid of Paul and the Christians.

Paul’s letter indicated that these teachers were preaching to make a profit seeing it as a business. They were rejecting sound doctrine and stirring up strife against other members. They were more concerned with material wealth than pure faith and spiritual conviction.

There are many preachers today who see ministry as a way to make money. Many go through media or have megachurches. Preachers such as Kenneth Copeland, Joel Osteen, and Pat Robertson, to name a few, live wealthy and extravagant lifestyles. They teach that financial giving leads to blessings from God, and although that is true, these preachers use psychological manipulation to receive donations and are not preaching God’s truth. They use these donations to buy mansions, luxury cars, and private jets. But this stems from one of the largest religious institutions, the Catholic church, which gained its wealth through manipulation as well. They had many fraudulent practices such as having parishioners pay money so their sin could be forgiven or reduced time in purgatory and charging people to be buried in “holy ground” to name a few. The church also extracted taxes from the kings of England, Poland, and Portugal.

Paul wants to make it clear that material wealth will come and go and when you put money before God, it makes it an idol and takes the focus off of God, which results in never being content, and then regret, guilt, and lack of spiritual faith. We are to seek His kingdom first and He will provide our needs for we know this world is temporary but having faith, being content with what we have, and sharing with others is what God wants. This was true in Paul's time and holds true today.