

Wednesday, October 11th

Proverbs 15:16- “Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it.”

I will never forget the feeling of buying my truck. It was the summer of 2011, and I had just begun my full-time career in ministry, as an Associate Pastor at Cabot United Methodist Church. Mary and I were settled into a nice, little, rental home and life was good. I had never purchased a brand-new car before, and I was so excited to pick out the exact truck I wanted. It was a beautiful, light blue, crew cab, 4-wheel drive Chevrolet Silverado. While it wasn't the top of the line, it was everything I had ever wanted. I remember being so proud of that truck, driving through town, thinking I was really somebody. I took good care to wash it frequently, avoid any dings or scratches, and keep “Ole Blue” looking as good as possible at all times. If you know what I drive today, you may be laughing at this point. Because I still drive “Ole Blue” 12 years later. In those twelve years, the truck that was once a great source of pride for me has lost some of its luster. There are dings and scratches all over thanks to shopping carts and backwoods brush. The seats have been stained by my three wonderful children who have spilled milk and Goldfish crackers all over them. That truck is no longer something that makes me feel like “somebody” when I am seen in it, and I am sure that in just a few more years my kids are going to wish I drove something a little more stylish.

But I like my truck, it runs well and its comfortable. God also works to remind me that my value in life is not derived by the truck I drive, or the house I live in, or the clothes I wear. I am not what I own, and neither are you. And, as the Proverb states, my life is much simpler with an old truck than it was with a brand new one. I spend less time at

the car wash, no longer have that car payment, and I have a daily reminder to be humble, and find my value as a child of God and not a consumer of the world. The world is constantly trying to tell us that our worth is found in our net worth, but let us resist that pull, and instead see our intrinsic purpose is to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be talking about how we do that, but first we have to acknowledge this power that seeking value in our possessions can have on us.

1. Have you ever been so proud of something you own that you found your self-worth in it? What was it?
2. When we find our value in possessions, we often compare ourselves to those around us, how do you handle the feelings of jealousy that often arise?