**Mid-week Stewardship Thought**

**Defining Materialism:**

Materialism is the love of money and possessions and that love of material stuff causes us to find our identity, meaning, and purpose outside of God. It is allowing money and possessions to become the center and the control of our lives. God created us to love people and use things, but our hearts have changed to loving things and using people. The love of material things will destroy our relationship with

Jesus because the blessings that God has provided become more important than the giver Himself. John Calvin, a church leader in the protestant reformation, wisely wrote, “Where riches hold the dominion of the heart, God has lost authority.” When we focus on material things, we become independent and self-sufficient. We become very prideful in what we’ve accomplished and own, and our purpose in life is to gain more and more stuff of this world.

**Prayer**: Father, grant me wisdom and strength to overcome the temptations I face. Amen.

**Blessings on your journey as a steward!**