

Rules for Dealing with Materiality
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From Psalm 49. RULES FOR DEALING WITH MATERIALITY and ITS ABUSE, MATERIALISM

Rule #1. MATERIALITY MUST BE CONFRONTED BY REVEALED ABSTRACTIONS (words) -- v. 1-4. Words outrank materiality ("wisdom", "understanding" -- v. 3). The psalm sets in place an authority structure between the Word of God and materiality.

Rule #2. THE IMMATERIAL OUTRANKS THE MATERIAL (v. 5-9.) The "soul" (v. 8) is more important than any material thing.

Rule #3. CLARIFY WHAT IS DURABLE and WHAT IS PERISHABLE (v. 10-12.) The truly durable is everything that "the stupid" and "senseless" (v. 10) consider to be inconsequential. And the perishable is everything they think to be durable. The state of "inner thought" (v. 11) comes out. These are materially successful, yet bankrupt in mind.

Rule #4. MATERIALITY IS SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF FINALITY (v. 13-15.) Some see beyond the material limit, and some do not. Those who do, will finally "rule over those" (v. 14) who deny imposed finality. These people surpass the "power of Sheol" (v. 15.)

Rule #5. MATERIALITY IS TEMPORARY (v. 16-20.) This implies that materialism is not a viable method. It faces a death limit (v. 17.) Men without "understanding" (v. 30) are reduced to the bestial. Culture and society are subject to such bestial reduction; a present sociological dynamic.

Rule #6. Remember that power of soul is greater than materiality. Materiality holds no inherent irresistible influence nor leverage over man as a spiritual reality. We don't have to bow down to it!