



WOW: Word Of the Week

Worthless

November 5, 2025

Jeremiah challenged Judah to turn away from, quit pursuing, worthless things. He states a simple principle: when people go after worthless things, they become worthless (2:5). How do we apply Jeremiah's statement in our contemporary lives?

Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians a reminder that all will receive their due, based on the things we pursue and the things we do while we live in this world (5:9-10). He mentions two possibilities. Christians can do things that are good or things that are worthless. The Greek *phaulos* can mean bad or evil (as it is often translated in these verses), but it can also mean ordinary, useless, worthless, temporary. The context of "things seen and things unseen," "walking by faith and not by sight," may point to the second meaning. What warning should we hear?

You may know Jeremiah's word, *hebel*. Jeremiah describes *hebel* things and *hebel* people. When God's people pursue worthless things, they also become worthless.

Hebel is the word of Ecclesiastes, meaningless, vanity. Money, riches, houses, experiences, luxury, leisure. Solomon had it all and had nothing of value. *Hebel*. Worthless. Life spent pursuing meaningless things, by people who have lost life's meaning.

Paul's words serve as a reminder of how easily we pursue things that will not matter in eternity, things fleeting, things eternally worthless.

Misplaced priorities, pursuing things of lesser importance, swerving off-mission, distracted, sidetracked. We pursue things—houses, lands, cars, sports, enjoyment, experiences—because we value them. Are we valuing things with no lasting value? If our pursuit of temporary things drains the energy needed to be doers of good things, we are traveling down "Worthless Highway." When worthless things consume our lives, our hearts, our time, we have less time for doing good.

Paul challenges us. Look at things unseen, be aware of the wasting-away nature of this world and our physical bodies, live by faith and not by what we can see and have. Pursue worthy things—to bring ourselves and others to eternity with God.

What does your life declare? What do you value? What do you pursue? What consumes your time? Let us pursue the things of God, things that will last, things eternal.