

March 1, 2020

“Transplant:
A Change of Heart”

“A Change in Our Banking” Core 21

“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”
Matthew 6:19-21

A. Our Intelligent Designer created us for giving, not getting...

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Acts 20:35

1. God created us to give!

“The joy of giving lasts longer than the joy of getting.

The happiness we feel after a particular event or activity diminishes each time we experience that event, a phenomenon known as hedonic adaptation. But giving to others may be the exception to this rule, according to research forthcoming in Psychological Science, a journal of the Association for Psychological Science.”

2. Jesus spoke on money more than He taught on heaven and hell combined.

“Randy Alcorn reckons that ‘15 percent of everything Christ said relates to this topic — more than His teachings on heaven and hell combined’ (The Treasure Principle, 8).”

3. Jesus used 500 verses on prayer and over 2300 verses about money.

“Think about it this way: There are 500 Bible verses pertaining to the topics of faith and prayer and yet 2,350 Bible verses on money. Why is that? Because God knows that our attitude toward money is an indication of where our heart is with God. We will either follow after gold or God and we cannot serve two masters. We will either turn to our wallet or our worship when we look to the source of our security. But we have to remember: Money is to be a resource, but it is not to be My Source.” Howard Dayton

4. Money is dangerous, whether you have it or not! If you have it, you may depend on it, or if you don’t have it you may crave it--either perspective is dangerous.

“Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!” Ecclesiastes 5:10

5. God created us for dependency on Him, not our own resources.

“Don’t love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, ‘I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.’ So we can say with confidence, ‘The LORD is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?’” Hebrews 13:5-6

B. “God wants our hearts, not our money”...

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:21

1. Follow the money and you will find the heart.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.” Matthew 6:19

2. God doesn’t need our money. So, hold onto it if you want. But, you need God and you can’t have both as your God.

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” Matthew 6:24

3. Our money management reveals our level of trust.

“Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.”

1 Timothy 6:17

4. God wants to be your provider!

“And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

5. Being a manager of God’s resources is a spiritual adventure!

“Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.” Luke 6:38

C. God gives us a clear pathway to freedom...

1. Store your treasures in heaven rather than on earth.

“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.” Matthew 6:20

2. Don’t worry...trust God!

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can

any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

Matthew 6:25

3. Seek God first, and everything else will fit into place. *“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”* Matthew 6:33

D. “Generosity brings blessing”...

“...blessed are those who help the poor.” Proverbs 14:21b

1. Be rich in God!

“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” 1 Timothy 6:17-19

2. Trust God as your provider!

“O my people, trust in Him at all times. Pour out your heart to Him, for God is our refuge.” Psalm 62:8

3. Learn to live the blessed life by giving as God has instructed! Our “returned” tithes and offerings regulate our management of His resources. Our “Sabbath rest” regulates our physical management of this body!

“‘Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in My Temple. If you do,’ says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, ‘I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put Me to the test!’” Malachi 3:10

“...You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.” Matthew 23:23b

4. God loves a cheerful giver!

“You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. ‘For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.’” 2 Corinthians 9:7

5. Remember, this is not our home!

“Randy Alcorn, in The Treasure Principle, says, ‘I’m convinced that the greatest deterrent to giving is this: the illusion that earth is our home’ (44; see Colossians 3:1-3). It’s not; Christ is our home. And therefore to live is Christ and to die is gain. And it will be all the more gain as we learn to lay up treasures in heaven by giving.”

“Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.” Colossians 3:1-3

March 8: A Change in Our Treatment of Others:
The Golden Rule