

April 30, 2017

## “Investing in Treasures”

*“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. What is the balance in your spiritual bank account?

*“Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.” Luke 12:21*

1. What is your treasure? Where is your treasure? Where is your focus? What or who are you serving? What captures your thoughts the most? If you say God is first in your life, why does He have the last place in your time, talents, and treasures?

*“Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.” Matthew 6:21*

2. Do these threaten your treasure...moths, rust, or thieves?

*“Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.” Matthew 6:20*

3. What captures your greatest attention in your time, talent, and treasure?

*“Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.” Colossians 3:2*

4. How are you building for eternity?

*“Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.” 1 Corinthians 3:12-15*

### B. Jesus calls us to radical living...

1. Store your treasures in heaven!

*“Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.” Matthew 6:20*

2. Don’t worry!

*“So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’” Matthew 6:31*

3. Seek first His Kingdom!

*“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” Matthew 6:33*

4. So, guard your vision!

*“Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!” Matthew 6:22-23*

### C. How do we become treasure investors?

1. Begin by focusing your heart on what is most important.

*“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.” Colossians 3:1-2*

2. Keep your focus on the eternal rather than the temporary and do not compromise one for the other.

*“Don’t be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshipping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don’t lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.” Colossians 3:5b-10*

3. Guard your heart as it will protect your choices and decisions.

*“Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.” Proverbs 4:23*

4. Remember, you are working for the Lord!

*“Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.” Colossians 3:23*

### D. Remember to keep focused on the goal...

*“Don’t you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win!” 1 Corinthians 9:24*

1. Man may not acknowledge your efforts but always remember that nothing goes unnoticed by God!

*“For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.” Hebrews 6:10*

2. God has a unique path for each of us to follow.

*“The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work.” 1 Corinthians 3:8*

3. Don’t get discouraged, but keep working!!

*“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.” Galatians 6:9*

*“Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward.” 2 John 1:8*

4. Always give yourself fully to working for the Lord.

*“So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.” 1 Corinthians 15:58*

*“Randy Alcorn, in that little book, The Treasure Principle, says, ‘I’m convinced that the greatest deterrent to giving is this: the illusion that earth is our home’. 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.”*

***“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” –Jim Elliot***