



SESSION 6

GIVING

When someone says, "You can't take anything with you when you die," its not exactly true. Sure, all the things we work for on this earth (money, power, prestige, possessions etc) stay here, but there are things that we can invest in now that will go with us in the end. So lets start investing in the right things.



¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

Those who love money will never have enough.
How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NLT)

Storing Up Treasures in Heaven Means:

1. Investing in your relationship with

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

Mark 12:30 (NIV)

2. Investing in your relationships with

"...Love your neighbor as yourself..."

Mark 12:31 (NIV)

3. Investing in _____ here on earth.

"...I will build my church; and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

Matthew 16:18 (NIV)

New Testament Principles for Giving

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work...

¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion...

2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 10-11 (NIV)

¹Now about the collection for God's people... ²On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income...

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (NIV)

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Matthew 6:33 (NASB)

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.

Psalms 90:12 (NASB)

Discussion

1. What is the great lesson of life from the game of Monopoly®, and why is it such an important lesson to learn?
2. Which attitudes and actions often become evident in our lives when we lose sight of the "everything goes back in the box" truth?
3. Read: Ecclesiastes 5:10 - While it seems common sense...many of us don't live like this verse is true. Where in your life are you allowing the treasure of the earth to become your master?

Investing in Your Relationship with God

4. Pastor Bryan challenged you to take time each day to invest in your relationship with God. When will that take place and how will you do that?

Investing in Your Relationship with Others

5. Where do you “Love your neighbor as yourself?” Is this a difficult command for you to follow? Why or why not?

6. What is one additional thing you can do this week to invest in your relationships with others?

Investing in the Cause of Christ on Earth

7. Pastor Bryan quoted his mentor saying, “show me your day-timer and your checkbook, and I’ll tell you how devoted you are to the Lord.” Do you believe that to be an accurate way of determining your devotion? Why?

8. Read Malachi 3:10. Have you or someone you know ever tested God in this? What was the outcome? What keeps us from believing this promise from God?

9. Pastor Bryan challenged us to make some new commitments this week that will be treasures that last forever. Discuss with your group what new priorities and commitments you've decided on.
10. Which perspective, the temporal or the eternal, has most influenced your everyday decisions in the past? If you need to develop a more eternal perspective, how might you go about doing that?