

April 30, 2017
The Treasure Principle
The Bigger Picture
Pastor Rick Rufenacht



Luke 12:13 - 21

My heart always goes where I put God's money.

Matt 6:21 Deut 6:5 Prov 4:3

Heaven, Not Earth is my home.

Phil 3:20 1 Peter 2:11 1 John 2:15

I Should Live Not For the Dot but For the Line.

1 Tim 6:17-19

Read Matthew 6:19-24

What is success?

How does success relate to what you value in life?

If you value fortune, success depends on the standard of living and number of dollars in the bank. If you value fame, success depends on how many people know who you are. If you value power, success is determined by the number of people you have under your control. Most people consider a success a combination of fortune, fame or power. The amount of each varies, but success is still described in terms of those things.

How does treasure fit into the world's idea of success? How has this idea permeated the church? In what ways is the world's idea of success antithetical to the Biblical idea of success?

Read 1 John 2:15 - 17

Why do you think John was so forceful in telling the people to avoid love of the world?

How can one appreciate what God has given us in the world and not love the world?

Read Matt 19:21 ; Mark 10:21 ; Luke 12:33 ; Luke 18:22

Why do you think Jesus kept talking about treasure in heaven? How important is it that we take an eternal view of our treasure?

Luke 16:10-15

What do you think Jesus might mean by "handling worldly wealth" in an appropriate manner?

What do you think Jesus meant by true riches?

Do you agree that practicing giving makes giving easier?
How do you think this works?

What is your first thought when you are given a surplus?
What usually drives how you spend a surplus? Is this right or wrong? Explain.

Does each day bring you closer to losing your treasure or gaining your treasure? Why is thinking about death helpful in evaluating one's view of wealth?

One of the keys from this morning's message was "My heart goes where I put my money".

How have you seen that play out in life?

Have you personally experienced the truth that your heart always goes where you put God's money? If so, give an example.

Where do you want your heart to go? What changes in the way you spend your money will you consider to move towards this goal?

It's not odd to think if we made more money we would be more generous. But studies show this usually isn't the case. How might the following verses help you develop a healthy perspective about your finances and the spiritual discipline of generosity?

Deuteronomy 8:10-18

Psalms 46:10

Proverbs 13:11

Proverbs 15:22

Ecclesiastes 5:10

Matthew 6:19-21