

Treasure

A Biblical Perspective



Passion

Webster's Dictionary says passion is an emotion so very strong that it overpowers one. **Zeal** is listed as a synonym and is defined as great enthusiasm for something, as a cause, that one works hard for without tiring or giving up.

We spend our whole lives either living out our passion, or trying to find it. The longing of the human heart is for it to be filled. God created in us the desire to know Him. Deep down inside of us there is an emptiness that we cannot fill with the treasures of this world. This is evident in the misery and failed marriages we see in athletes and movie stars. When fame and fortune are not tempered with leaning on God for provision and security, peace will never come. What we are passionate about will dictate what we treasure.

There is hope, and that hope is in Jesus Christ. We work most of our lives to save up for retirement, to amass money and possessions to give us security. However, this treasure is not secure, as the recent financial climate has proven. And, you cannot take it with you when you die. This is never better illustrated than in the parable that Jesus told of the rich farmer in Luke 12:16-21.

"And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

In the verse immediately preceding this parable, Jesus tells His disciples "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Yet, we fill our lives coveting what is not ours and trying to build ourselves up with possessions for security and joy.

The original 401(k)

What we fail to realize is God setup the original and ultimate 401(k). We see this life as the journey, but it is only training. As Christians, we need to focus on storing up treasures in Heaven rather than gaining earthly treasures. For example, there are people who go to medical school and put in long hours and lots of money to become a doctor. They choose to put everything aside to become physicians because they know the reward that is to follow is worth the pain of the journey. But at the end of their lives, what is it worth when eternity is at hand? Their earthly bank account maybe full, but their Heavenly bank account is empty.

We don't have to be like the rich young farmer. Jesus says in Matthew 6:19-21 "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Where is your treasure? Is it secured? Is it backed by the God of this universe? Or is it backed by man and only temporal? Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not on your own understanding.

What is my treasure and how can I lay it up?

One of the simplest ways is supporting your local church by tithes and offerings. God instructs us to give our tithes. We can also give to missions and other organizations to help further the gospel. Treasure is not only money, it is also talent. Not everyone is called to preach; not everyone is called to be a missionary; but we are all called to serve and use our talents for God. In Matthew 25:14-30 Jesus gives the following parable:

“For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord’s money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

We are all given talents and abilities by God, and those who do not use them in part to do His Will may lose them. Don't miss out on what God has created you to do. Get the peace that passes all understanding.

Are you doing your part?

God gives everyone a desire to give something of themselves for a greater good or cause. With the busyness of daily lives people sometimes have trouble filling that desire. This is where Trinity Baptist Temple comes in. TBT supports missionaries and pastors around the world, determining what they need and finding ways to fill that need. So let TBT match your talents, whether they be money, skills, or both, to the needs across the world. Together we can reach people with the gospel and support local pastors in their ministries.

Our Mission

We have a different approach than most mission boards. While supporting many missionaries from the United States, we are focusing our support toward local pastors around the world. We strongly believe in developing local churches around the world to help spread the gospel and strengthen believers worldwide. Local pastors do not have to worry about language, cultural or financial obstacles that non-national missionaries face. The harvest is great, but the laborers are few. Help us increase the laborers with your support.

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Thank you for your generous support!



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