



Are Your Treasures Really Worth Treasuring?

Luke 12:34: (NASB) *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*



Think about your life for a moment. Think about those things, people, places, experiences and memories that are most precious to you. The few thoughts at the top of this list are in all likelihood some of your greatest treasures. Now, think again about your life for another moment. Think about the things, people, places, experiences and memories that you obsess about - the images that you replay again and again in your mind, that go around and around on that insatiable loop of conditioned and driven brain activity. The obsessions that top this list are in all likelihood your treasures as well. It is kind of disturbing, is it not? So, what do we do about it? How do we learn to isolate and diminish those things which we cherish but hurt us? How do we instead focus on and appreciate those items that bring true honor, blessing and joy?



We will be going on an unusual treasure hunt and we will be finding things that may look like treasure but are really not. What do we treasure, what should we treasure and what are the differences?

Scripturally, what is a treasure?

Treasure: Strongs #2344 thesauros (thay-sow-ros') a deposit, i.e. wealth (literally or figuratively)

Greek English Lexicon 1) the place in which good and precious things are collected and laid up
2) the things laid up in a treasury, collected treasures

The following audio clip points out the materialism in the world in which we live.



First World worship of things, *Get Out of the Materialism Trap NOW*, Erin Janus

- If you're watching this video right now you are likely in the top 10 percent of the world's population as far as wealth goes. If you have clothes, food to eat, clean water to drink, a little bit of money, and a roof over your head - you have it all to the millions of people who don't have clean water to drink. Who are so poor, that they can't eat; who are in a part of the world that is such a mess that they can't create the life of their dreams there, they just have to scrape by to survive. It's the survival of the fittest. And we're over here in America with the ability to create an amazing life of success and opportunity and reward if we just apply ourselves. If we just think about what we want and work at it - and that's incredible. And with basically the world in the palms of our hands, we're over here in First World countries worshipping things.*

Let's begin with the effects of our treasures on our lives:

A harsh lecture from Jesus:

Matthew 12:34-37: (NASB) ³⁴You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. ³⁵The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil. ³⁶But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the



day of judgment. ³⁷For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

Jesus is saying, *every careless word that people speak is going to be accounted for.* How many idle words have we spoken? The idle words come out of the treasures of our heart.

As “beauty is in the eye of the beholder” let us think of treasure the same way.

Three suggested and intertwined characteristics of anything we would label as a treasure:

1. **It is attractive.** This attractiveness can be how something looks, how it stimulates our senses or what it does. Examples - art, gardening, carving tools.
2. **It has personal value.** It means something special or is worth something of personal significance, it fills a void, creates a distraction, stimulates a thought, stirs a memory.
3. **It represents a measurement of wealth.** It commands time, attention, space or concern. Our treasures need us to give them our attention - they are not demanding it, they are commanding it.



One of God's treasures:

Exodus 19:5-6: (KJV) ⁵Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, (this is attractive to God) then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: (personal value to God) for all the earth is mine: ⁶And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation (to God it is wealth). These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

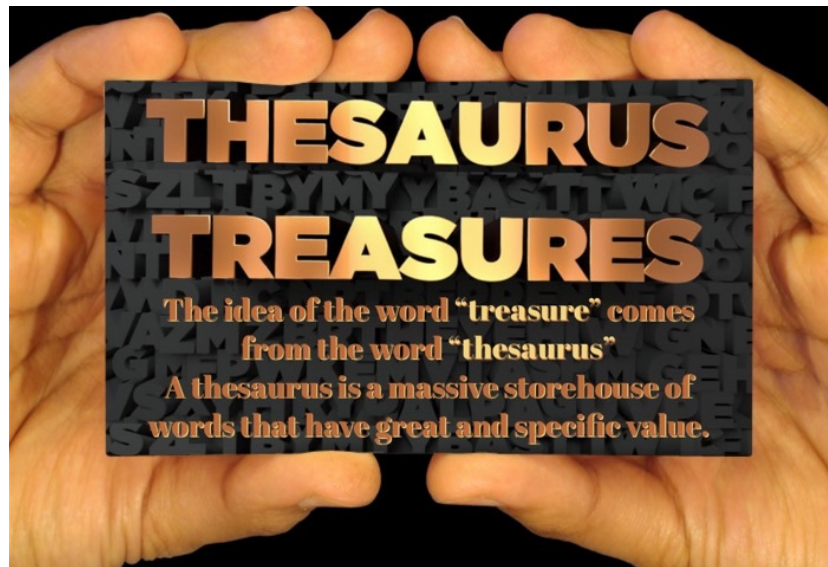


Julie from the CQ team: (Comments in pink) “I looked up the word “treasure” in the dictionary and found out that it originates from an old French word “tresor,” based on the Greek work “thēsauros” where we get our English word for thesaurus! I thought there had to be some lessons there because I love to search, examine, investigate, research and pursue new words!”

(Rick) Words are one of my treasures! Words are an amazing tool.



Part of the Greek culture was the communication of ideas, science and thinking that you do with words.



- 1. Its attractiveness lies in its power to expand both meaning and expression.**
- 2. Its value is expressed in the broadening of an explanation or understanding of a thought, action or thing.**
- 3. Its wealth is in the vastness of what it broadens - countless thought actions and things. Words provoke thinking and thinking provokes action.**

What do we do when we want something to be our treasure that seems to be out of our reach?



Because our choice of what we treasure is not limited to rare paintings or collectibles, we do have to be on our guard when *thinking* about them. There is a very real danger of wanting to choose treasures that we feel entitled to but may not be able to have. What do we do then? Jesus provides an answer!



Let's take a look at the kinds of treasures we have and the effect they have on us.

The Issue: Our thought treasures can be those things which we think we should be given.

We will be examining Luke 12:1-34 throughout the podcast.

Luke 12:13: (NASB) ¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.

(Source: Biblical commentary by Adam Clarke) Among the Jews, the children had the inheritance of their fathers divided among them; the eldest had a double portion, but all the rest had equal parts. It is likely the person complained of in the text was the elder brother; and he wished to keep the whole to himself – a case which is far from being uncommon.

It is hard to say if there is any injustice here or simply an attempt to get more:

Luke 12:14: (NASB) ¹⁴But he said to him, Man, who appointed me a judge or arbitrator (one who apportions/administrator) over you?

Jesus does not try to help him. He does not get involved.

(Source: Biblical commentary by James Burton Coffman) Although no fault could be found with this man's request, Christ absolutely refused to accede to it. Jesus did not approach the problems of social injustice by an assault upon established institutions. He did not take the man's part against those who had wronged him.

Luke 12:15: (NASB) ¹⁵Then he said to them, Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.

Instead of helping him, he says something that can be interpreted as being spoken to the one complaining, as well as the one being complained about. They both needed to be on their guard against every form of greed.

 ***The endowment effect, Why Are We So Attached to Our Things, Christian Jarrett***

- *After witnessing the violent rage shown by babies whenever deprived of an item they considered their own, Jean Piaget, a founding father of child psychology, observed something profound about human nature. Our sense of ownership emerges incredibly early. Why are we so clingy? There's a well-established phenomenon in psychology known as the "endowment effect" where we value items much more highly just as soon as we own them.*



Rick's experience: I have two granddaughters who are a little over two years old. They live in different states. At Christmastime they were together, and we were exchanging Christmas presents and everyone was happy. One of the little girls received some toy pots and pans for a gift and the other little girl picked them up to play with. The first granddaughter, the owner of the toy, freaked out. We heard, "MINE!" There is a physiological attachment to ownership at a very young age. When I heard that audio clip, this experience was the first thing I thought of.





Sometimes when we cannot or do not have a desired treasure, our obsessing over it becomes our treasure. We will focus on the thought treasures and the obsession we can develop. Obsession can have those three characteristics we mentioned. **Obsession is attractive** - it paints a big "what if" picture. Obsession can be magnetic. **Obsession has personal value** - it is about what I deserve. **Obsession represents wealth** - my life would be richer if I get what I obsess over!

What is the difference between obsessing over what you cannot have versus putting the time in, so you can have it? You say obsession, but I am going to say, focus, dedication, determination, commitment, passion. If you want something, you have to put the time in. Let's say I want to play professional sports or learn to play a musical instrument or go to college? It is going to take all of my time, money, energy and focus in order to have a better career. Is it good or is it bad if I spend 90 hours a week at work, at the expense of my family, but I feel good and I get promoted? What if I spend that same 90 hours with three different jobs because I have four kids at home and I am caring for my elderly parents? Is one good and one bad? What is right?

Obsession can become a treasure because we value it. There is a difference between obsession and passion. Passion is focus in a healthy way, versus obsession, which is focus out of control. When passion turns into obsession, we have a treasure that is not good. The passion to graduate college or to play professional sports can be great but it becomes an obsession when it starts taking away more from your life than what it brings into your life.

What is your overriding goal? Is it to be the best in your field and work 90 hours or is your goal to be pleasing to God, make a consecration to Him and help those around you?

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

Our goals and passions in life need to fit into the largest picture in our life. If you are a Christian, the big picture is not what do I accomplish or what do I get, it is how do I please God and follow in Jesus' footsteps?

The Answer  **Our thought treasures need to be recalibrated!**

When you recalibrate a machine, you reset the machine to do what it is supposed to do. That is what we need to do with our treasures. Our thought treasures need to be recalibrated or reset so they are functioning properly. How do you recalibrate your thoughts? Look away from ourselves and think on those things that are simply expressions of God's genius. Stop, look and listen!





First, look at nature:

Luke 12:27-28: (NASB) ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You men of little faith!

Jesus ties the breathtaking beauty and treasure of nature to our own spiritual lives. Think deeply!

1 Peter 1:4-9: (NASB) ⁴to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

This is a magnificent spiritual treasure! It is attractive!

⁶In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Such a treasure is worth its price! It has personal value!

⁸and though you have not seen him, you love him, and though you do not see him now, but believe in him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

This treasure brings eternal joy! It represents GREAT wealth!

Lilies of the field are free. We do not need a lot of money to have happiness. We are wired to have happiness and respond to nature.

We have several new beginnings in our lives - the new year, the memorial of our Lord's death, and in September when the new school year starts. In all these new beginnings, we need to reevaluate and recalibrate our lives to see if we are focused properly.





**Many of our treasures are as a result of our focus and hard work!
Aren't these good treasures?**

There certainly is an appropriateness to treasuring something that someone has planned and labored for. As a matter of fact, we should encourage such treasuring, especially amongst our kids as a lesson in effort and accomplishment. However, like anything else in this world, even good things to treasure can end up in a bad way.

The last segment was about our thinking. Now we will focus on our accomplishments.

 **Coffee mug or chocolate bar, *Why Are We So Attached to Our Things*, Christian Jarrett**

- *In one famous demonstration, students were given a choice between a coffee mug or a Swiss chocolate bar as a reward for helping out with research. Half chose the mug and half chose the chocolate. That is, they seemed to value the two rewards similarly. Other students were given a mug first and then a surprise chance to swap it for a chocolate bar, but only 11 percent wanted to. Yet another group started out with chocolate, and most preferred to keep it rather than swap. In other words, the students nearly always put greater value on whichever reward they started out with. Part of this has to do with how quickly we form connections between our sense of self and the things we consider ours.*

If we own it, we tend to value it more. If you accomplish something, you own that accomplishment.

The Issue: Our accomplishment treasures can be those things which we have worked hard for including status, wealth and fame, all of which can be deserved, appropriate – and destructive.

Luke 12:16-21: (NASB) ¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, The land of a rich man was very productive. ¹⁷And he began reasoning to himself, saying, What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops? (NO place to store? Really? This attitude leans towards arrogance - what exists is not worthy of MY goods and MY harvest!) ¹⁸Then he said, This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ("I" and "my" - six times in this verse alone!) ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry. ²⁰But God said to him, You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared? ²¹So is the man who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.

The rich man in this parable is without humility and without compassion for those who have nothing. He is so focused on the look and the feel of what he has accomplished, he has forgotten to appreciate the accomplishment for the value it has.

Let's get practical. Sometimes when we meet with personal accomplishment, we also meet face-to-face with arrogance.

Accomplishment is attractive - who doesn't want to succeed?

Accomplishment has personal value - it gives opportunities and influence.

Accomplishment represents wealth - it brings confidence and security. This can all be good, until it is not!



There are many Scriptures that warn us to stay humble, but what about REVERSE arrogance from the standpoint of the one who does not have the accomplishment? This is another thesaurus word for jealousy. I can look at someone and deem them "materialistic" because they have the cool stuff that I do not. You can be proud of your lifestyle - "I live simply and am not caught up in worldly things like television or vacations." "I never take up time watching sports." You can judge someone who is living with different means. You can take great personal pride in your own humility! Arrogance works on both sides. Is your humility your treasure or is God's grace to supply your needs, your treasure?

Your humility can become your accomplishment, which turns into arrogance, which goes sour.

What about people who have accomplishments?

Pride in a job well-done is not a bad thing. The Lord wants us to have self-confidence. He does not want us to walk around as doormats, thinking we are nothing. It goes back to the overall goal - I am here to please God, be kind to others, work on my character and everything else should fall into place. Every day we need to be sure we are moving in the right direction. Sin will automatically take us in the wrong direction. We are always swimming against the current. With great accomplishment comes great responsibility.

In the olden days, when a woodworker was finished with his project, he would fold his handkerchief that he used to dry himself off and put it on top of the finished piece to say, "It is finished. I worked hard and accomplished my goal." Just as Jesus in the tomb folded the napkin about his head and laid it by itself - separate from his linen clothes.

John 20:7: (KJV) *And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.*

We need to be aware of the value of the accomplishment and also the danger of that accomplishment. An accomplishment can be beautiful and encouraging. We just need to be careful of the arrogance.

Even without arrogance, accomplishment can be a treacherous road.



Mine and magical, *Why Are We So Attached to Our Things*, Christian Jarrett

- *Another reason we're so fond of our possessions is that from a young age we believe they have a unique essence. Psychologists showed us this by using an illusion to convince three to six-year-olds they built a copying machine, a device that could create perfect replicas of any item. When offered a choice between their favorite toy or an apparently exact copy, the majority of the children favored the original. In fact, they were often horrified at the prospect of taking home a copy. This magical thinking about objects isn't something we grow out of. Rather it persists into adulthood while becoming ever more elaborate. For example, consider the huge value placed on items that have been owned by celebrities. It's as if the buyers believed the objects they'd purchased were somehow imbued with the essence of their former celebrity owners. For similar reasons, many of us are reluctant to part with family heirlooms which help us feel connected to lost loved ones.*



We can become attached so easily.

Mark 10:17-22: (KJV) ¹⁷And...there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? ¹⁸And Jesus said unto him... ¹⁹Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. ²⁰And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. ²¹Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. ²²And he was sad at that saying and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

It was too much for him to give up his treasures. He was not arrogant. He was humble and forthright. The parable in Luke 12:16-21 about the man storing up crops and building larger barns shows us the earthly treasure of accomplishment seasoned with arrogance. This last event in Mark 10:17-22 showed us the earthly treasure of accomplishment seasoned with attachment.

If attachment is too deep, it can be hurtful as well.

If you are attached to something and if something happens that breaks that attachment, you are thrown for a loop. If all your attachments are taken away, what is going to be your attitude towards God?

The Answer  **Our accomplishment treasures need to be recalibrated!**

Let us simply and sincerely work towards the accomplishment of OUR FAITH:

Luke 12:29-31: (NASB) ²⁹And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. ³¹But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you.





Treasuring accomplishments can be dicey! What about treasuring those things that we simply need?

Finding our treasure in the needs of our daily life sounds like a simple and easy task. It does not appear to have the challenges of obsession or the pitfalls that may follow accomplishment. It does, however, have its own set of detours, some of which can be subtle but just as dangerous!

Our intention is to magnify the right kind of treasures, sought in the right kinds of ways that contribute to our lives and the lives of those around us, rather than destroy.

The Issue: Our personal daily life treasure can be those things which we feel like we need. These include things that are necessary, and things perceived as necessary – wants, jealousies, habits and addictions are all included.

 Hoarding disorder, *Why Are We So Attached to Our Things, Christian Jarrett*

- *Sometimes our attachment to our things can go too far. Part of the cause of hoarding disorder is an exaggerated sense of responsibility and protectiveness toward one's belongings. That's why people with this condition find it so difficult to throw anything away. What remains to be seen today is how the nature of our relationship with our possessions will change with the rise of digital technologies. Many have forecasted the demise of physical books and music, but for now, at least, this seems premature. Perhaps there will always be something uniquely satisfying about holding an object in our hands and calling it our own.*



If you ask a hoarder a question about any little thing they saved, they have an answer why they saved it - even a used tea bag that sat on a shelf for two years.

It means they are assigning the wrong value of wealth to that little thing. We need to properly assign our possessions to have wealth. What is a personal daily life treasure that is okay to have?

The Bible is an obvious treasure for us. It is God's thesaurus. This is where you will find the words that expand life.



I have a "Christian Questions" pen. It has our logo, "Think about the Bible like you never have before." I keep this at my podcasting desk all the time. I love to hold it and use it because it reminds me of the value of the work we are trying to do. The value of putting the effort in, even when we do not feel like it. That is a motivational factor. It moves me forward. This is just a little example of something I treasure.





Luke 12:22-26: (NASB) ²²And he said to his disciples, For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!

Daily life does not need us to obsess over essentials.

²⁵And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life's span? ²⁶If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters?

We cannot even accomplish truly shaping our own destiny so let us simply live in responsibility and in faith!

Accepting and cherishing the simple things of life is a wonderful way for anyone to find treasure. The problem arises when we accept and cherish bad habits, dark emotions and even addictions as treasures.

The sin in our personal daily life is attractive. It feels comfortable and natural in its destructiveness.

It has a personal value in the comfort it projects to cover its devastation.

It represents a wealth of acceptability as its most powerful deception.

We are all damaged by sin. We can easily get stuck and put time into what we really like or are addicted to and it goes beyond the basic and obvious like smoking, drugs or alcohol. It can be SOCIAL MEDIA addiction, FOOD addiction, SHOPPING addiction, even addiction to the satisfaction we get from WORK. Again, with the thesaurus idea, we can change the words a bit and call our bad habits things like this:

“That’s the way I was raised.”

“That’s the only way I know.”

“It’s the culture.”

“This makes me happy and I deserve it.”

“I am a victim.”

“I’m not strong enough to fight it.”

You can spin it using different words to make it not so bad. I think it comes down to self-control, proper goals and recalibration. But what exactly is considered materialistic? Like most every woman in America, I have a wardrobe with three different sizes: skinny, regular and heavy. I have no idea which one I can fit into on any given day, so I might have three identical pairs of pants. If I am being honest, I also have a fourth size I call, “Are you kidding me!?” from 20 years ago that I know I will never again fit into, but a girl likes to dream. Does this make me MATERIALISTIC or REALISTIC?





There is a difference between needing to have it and wanting to have it. We need to be honest with our self. If we are materialistic, the result is clutter in our life. Clutter brings a false sense of "stuff." A false sense of "stuff" brings us away from our big goal, serving God and following in the footsteps of Jesus.

It is by going down into the abyss that we recover the treasures of life. Where you stumble, there lies your treasure. – Joseph Campbell

The Answer! **Our personal daily life treasures need to be recalibrated! Let us intentionally abandon our old worn-out sinful treasures in exchange for embracing the daily life treasure of the kingdom!**

Luke 12:32-34: (NASB) ³²Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



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

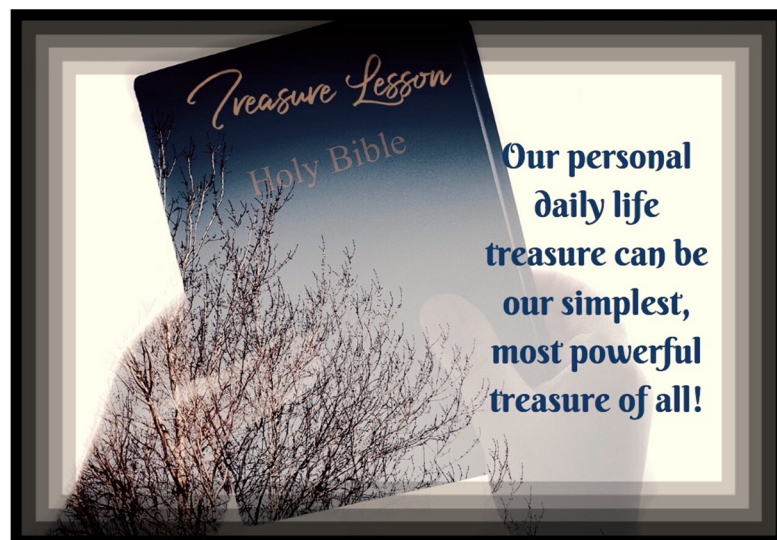
Are you living in a way that treasures that gift? Your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom. Our possessions do not matter.

It is not enough to focus our eyes, heart and mind upward, we must also withdraw from sinful ways:

1 Peter 2:1-4: (NASB) ¹Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, ²like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, ³if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. ⁴And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men but is choice and precious in the sight of God...

This daily battle leads to the grand and personal daily treasure of being recognizable as blessed by God:

1 Peter 2:9-11: (NASB) ⁹But you are a chosen race, A royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.





Obsessive, accomplishment and daily life treasures can all be refocused. How do we do that?

Whenever we try and pinpoint how to accomplish something that is really difficult, it is always helpful to have an example to examine. Fortunately, the Bible gives us many such examples, one of which we will look closely at right now. That is the transformational example of the Apostle Paul.

Here is the Apostle Paul’s “before and after” picture. He shows us earthly treasure versus heavenly treasure in his daily life. He begins by speaking of our mutual privilege:

Philippians 3:3-11: (NASB) ³for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.

Paul is declaring what it looks like to be spiritually minded.

Now comes the “before” story:

⁴although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: ⁵circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

Paul treasured **his former life as Saul of Tarsus. It was attractive** - he was a favored one of God, born, circumcised and raised a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin. **His former treasured life had personal value** - he was a Hebrew of Hebrews and a Pharisee! **His former treasured life represented wealth** - he was lauded as blameless under the Law and a leader in the persecution of Christianity! Paul treasured the persecution of Christianity. He took the regret of what he had done and made it the catapult to drive him forward.



Story of the boy - part one, 365 Materialism, Christian Youth Channel

- *The upstate New York man was rich in almost every way. His estate was worth millions. He owned houses, lands, antiques, and cattle. But though on the outside he had it all, he was very unhappy in the inside. His wife was growing old and the couple was childless. He had always wanted a little boy to carry on the family legacy. Miraculously his wife became pregnant in her later years and she gave birth to a little boy. The boy was severely handicapped, but the man loved him with his whole heart. When the boy was five his mum died. The dad grew closer to his special son. At the age of thirteen the boy’s birth defects cost him his life and the father died soon after from a broken heart.*

There is a tremendous lesson in perspective with this story which we will explain in the next audio clip.

Here is the pivot point, the transformation that began in his heart and mind, spread to his actions:

⁷But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.
⁸More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.

When the Apostle Paul looked back on his life, how did he assess it?



It sounds like he is putting it into perspective. He is now calling it what it is. Before he was saying, "I am special, learned and amazing!" Now he is looking back and saying, "I persecuted the Christians. I was the one who held the robes when they were stoned." He recalibrated.

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss.

His new opportunity was SO POWERFUL that any previous treasure was now fit for the trash heap!

 **Story of the boy - part two, 365 Materialism, Christian Youth Channel**

- *The estate was auctioned before hundreds of bidders. The first item offered was a painting of the boy. No one bid. They waited like vultures for the riches. Finally, the poor housemaid who helped raise the boy offered five dollars for the picture and easily took the bid. To everyone's shock, the auctioneer ripped a hand written will from the back of the picture. This is what it said: "To the person who thinks enough of my son to buy this painting, to this person I give my entire estate." The auction was over. The greedy crowd walked away in shock and dismay. How many of us have sought after what we thought were true riches only to find out later that our Father was prepared to give us His entire estate if we had only had sought after His son alone.*

That is a lesson in true riches and what we treasure! Does it have value for eternity?

Paul used his accomplishments to advance in his witnessing. Remember when he was thrown into prison with Silas? He said, "I was a Roman citizen and you did this injustice against me?" Think of how many people heard that and were afraid because of what they did. He used the facts of his past to further the good news of the gospel. He used the facts but left the feelings behind. The facts were valuable, but the feelings and attachments were meaningless.

And now the "after" picture!

⁹and may be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death; ¹¹in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Paul's new life treasure was attractive and holy - it was a SURPASSING VALUE of knowing Jesus. Recalibrating brings holiness into the picture for all of our treasures.

We need to consciously think about recalibrating every day. It is easy to use a different word to describe what we are doing and color it in some other way, but if we are called by God and set aside for His purpose, having the latest this and that or giving into our baser desires can get us farther and farther away from the character we want to have.

We must be honest with ourselves. Why do we treasure certain things? Is it something that is bringing you forward in the largest treasure of your life?

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33)



Paul's new life treasure had personal and holy value - loss was now gain and his own faulty humanity was now fully covered by Jesus through faith. Paul's new life treasure had enormous and holy wealth - he followed Christ to a heavenly and eternal resurrection by conforming to the sacrificial death of Jesus.



It is a matter of what is most important to you in your life that should dictate to you what your other treasures are.

Proverbs 30:8-9: (The Bible in Basic English) ⁸Put far from me all false and foolish things: do not give me great wealth or let me be in need, but give me only enough food: ⁹For fear that if I am full, I may be false to you and say, Who is the Lord? or if I am poor, I may become a thief, using the name of my God wrongly.

Treasure the right treasures.

*So, are your treasures really worth treasuring?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*



Join us next week for our March 26, 2018, podcast,
"Christian and Single - What Does Life Look Like?"

Bonus Material



The royal road to a man's heart is to talk to him about the things he treasures most.

— Dale Carnegie

Just as treasures are uncovered from the earth, so virtue appears from good deeds, and wisdom appears from a pure and peaceful mind. To walk safely through the maze of human life, one needs the light of wisdom and the guidance of virtue. — Buddha

I have just three things to teach: simplicity, patience, compassion. These three are your greatest treasures. — Lao Tzu

The lips of the wise are as the doors of a cabinet; no sooner are they opened, but treasures are poured out before thee. — Akhenaton

The man who treasures his friends is usually solid gold himself. — Marjorie Holmes

More from Jesus on treasures:

Matthew 6:16-24: (NASB) ¹⁶Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. ¹⁷But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face ¹⁸so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. ¹⁹Do 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 neither moth nor rust destroy, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²²The eye is the lamp of the body; so, then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. ²³But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! ²⁴No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Some of God's treasures:

Exodus 19:5-8: (NRSV) ⁵Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites. ⁷So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ⁸The people all answered as one: Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do. Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

Psalms 116:12-18: (ASV) ¹²What shall I render unto Jehovah for all His benefits toward me? ¹³I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of Jehovah. ¹⁴I will pay my vows unto Jehovah, Yea, in the presence of all His people. ¹⁵Precious in the sight of Jehovah is the death of his saints. ¹⁶O Jehovah, truly I am thy servant: I am thy servant, the son of thy handmaid; Thou hast loosed my bonds. ¹⁷I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call upon the name of Jehovah. ¹⁸I will pay my vows unto Jehovah, yea, in the presence of all His people.

Matthew 3:16-17: (NRSV) ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

Hebrews 12:5-8: (NRSV) ⁵And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as children— My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, or lose heart when you are punished by him; ⁶for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves, and chastises every child whom he accepts. ⁷Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? ⁸If you do not have that discipline in which all children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children.

