

S E S S I O N



# ***BUILDING SUPPLIES***

# GREATEST SERMON EVER – MATTHEW 6:19-24

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. - **Matthew 6:19-21**

- **Jesus compares two choices:** <sup>(172)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_
- **Jesus is NOT opposed to investing – He in fact encourages us to invest**
- **Jesus’ argument is NOT a** <sup>(173)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ **one, but a** <sup>(174)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ **one**
- **Jesus’ focus is not a call to renounce earthy treasures (i.e. it’s not a call for asceticism)**
- **Asceticism – definition –**
  1. **The principles and practices of an ascetic; extreme self-denial and austerity.**
  2. **The doctrine that the ascetic life releases the soul from bondage to the body and permits union with the divine.**
- **The focus is the call for** <sup>(175)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ **investors**

## TREASURES

- **The greatest treasure is Christ Himself**

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.” - **Genesis 15:1**

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

- **Philippians 3:7-11**

- **Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians**

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. - **Ephesians 3:14-19**

**The more STUFF we cram into our life, the more that STUFF robs us of life!**

# REWARDS

- **Part of gaining Christ is the potential for eternal** <sup>(176)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. - **1 Corinthians 9:24-25**

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. - **1 Timothy 6:17-19**

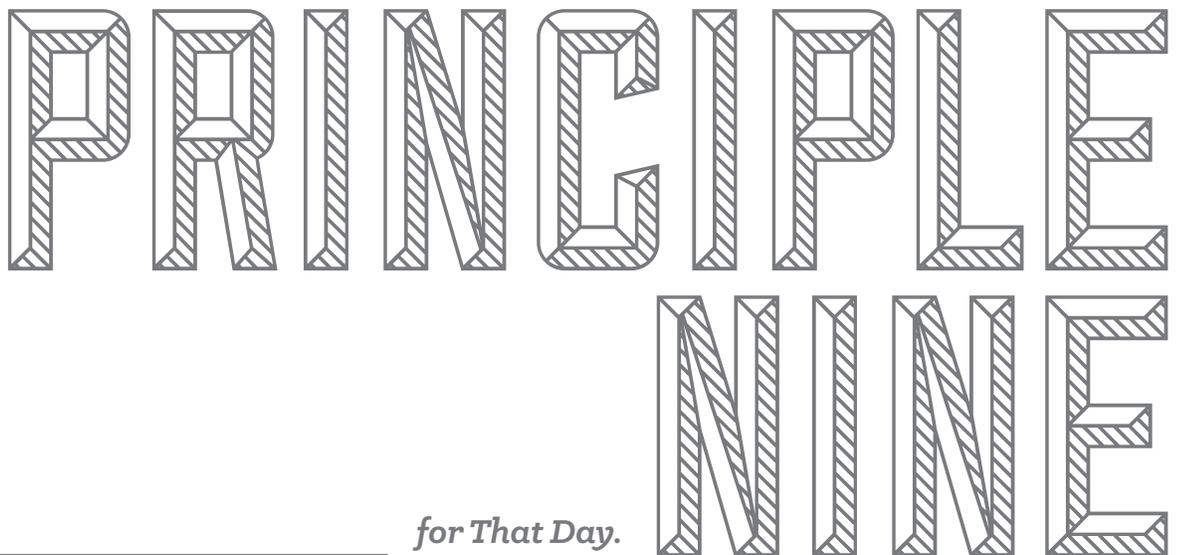
Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. - **Philippians 4:15-17**

Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. - **Luke 12:33**

- **God expects and** <sup>(177)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ **us to act out of enlightened, faith-based self-interest**

- **Our generosity is good for ourselves**
- **Our generosity is good for others**
- **Our generosity brings glory to God**

- **You can't take it with you, but you can** <sup>(178)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ **it ahead!**



**Live** <sup>(179)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ **for That Day.**

**“HE IS NO FOOL WHO GIVES WHAT HE CANNOT KEEP, TO GAIN WHAT HE CANNOT LOSE.”**

**- JIM ELLIOTT (1927-1956)**

Written as a college student in 1949. Martyred by Auca Indians of Ecuador with four other friends from Wheaton College.

## **RADICAL ROLE MODEL**

JOHN WESLEY (1703-1791)

- **1731: Income £30 – Expenses £28 – Giving £2**
- **1732: Income £60 – Expenses £28 – Giving £32**
- **1733: Income £90 – Expenses £28 – Giving £62**
- **1734: Income £120 – Expenses £28 – Giving £92**
- **One year: Income £1400 – Expenses £30 – Giving £1370**
  
- **Wesley died in 1791 with 2 coins in his pocket**

Radical? Certainly!

Foolish? Most Definitely NOT!

- **His secret? A relentless <sup>(180)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ on eternity!**

*“I value all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity.” – John Wesley*

## SESSION 20 SUMMARY



The greatest investment opportunity ever imagined is offered the man or woman of faith. Jesus gives us the opportunity to build an eternal inheritance by ordering our lives around a simple idea – this present life will last at most another 100 years, but our eternity will last, well, an amount of time that’s beyond our ability to imagine. We can invest in one place or the other. Jesus simply challenges us to make a smart, faith-based choice.

**Principle nine: Live Today for That Day!**

1. On a scale of 1 – 10 (highest), where do you rate your ability to consistently live with an eternal perspective? Why?

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2. How should the principle “Live Today for That Day!” practically change how you make financial decisions?

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### GOD’S PERSPECTIVE

<sup>1</sup> If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. - **Colossians 3:1-3**

- An eternal perspective is vital to living the best life
- A Godly perspective puts Him first
- A Godly perspective seeks Him first
- A Godly perspective is vital for financial freedom

“While we walk about it is truly true that we have no desire for the world, because our desires are greater than the world. You **CANNOT** (emphasis added) fascinate a man of God with gold, or houses, or lands. We seek a country, a city which hands have not made, eternal in the heavens.”

- Smith Wigglesworth, August, 1922

### PRAY FOR GODLY PERSPECTIVE

*Father, thank You for the gift of eternal life given to me as a result of Your Son’s sacrifice. Thank You for a life that will never end. Thank You for a life that is better than anything I can imagine.*

*Jesus, thank You for paying the full and final price.*

*Holy Spirit, my heart’s desire is to live everyday with an eternal mindset. I want to live wholly devoted to hearing and responding to Your voice. Nothing else will satisfy. Tell me great and mighty things I do not know.*

*In Jesus’ Name.*