

# The Treasure Principle

Week 3 – “Raising My Standard of Giving”

## News and Notes

- No Bible Class or Sunday School Next Week – MELHS Sunday
- Community Relief Grant

## Getting Started

- “Mutual conversation and consolation of brothers and sisters” – Smalcald Articles: Part III – Article IV – The Gospel

## Quick Review

Tyranny of things

- He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep. There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? – Ecclesiastes 5:10-16

Earthly treasures can become Heavenly ones

- “As base a thing as money often is, it yet can be transmuted into everlasting treasure. It can be converted into food for the hungry and clothing for the poor; it can keep a missionary actively winning lost men to the light of the Gospel and thus transmute itself into heavenly values. Any temporal possession can be turned into everlasting wealth. Whatever is given to Christ is immediately touched with immortality.” – A.W. Tozer

## Principle #5: Giving is the only antidote to materialism

- The act of giving is a vivid reminder that it’s all about God, not about us.
- Giving dethrones the money-god that enslaves me.

## The Treasure Principle

*You can't take it with you – but you can send it on ahead.*

## The Treasure Principle Keys

1. God owns everything. I'm His money manager.
2. My heart always goes where I put God's money.
3. The New Heavens and the New Earth, not this fallen one, is my home.
4. I should live not for the dot but for the line.
5. Giving is the only antidote to materialism.
6. God prospers me not to raise my standard of living but to raise my standard of giving.

- We are halfhearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at sea. We are far too easily pleased. – C.S. Lewis

**Principle #6: God prospers me not to raise my standard of living but to raise my standard of giving.**

- God prospers us – for our blessings!

- Fed Ex Guy

- Your kids don't need it

**Practical Application**

- Alfred Nobel – “The merchant of death is dead.”

- Just get started

- Be intentional (prayer)

- Exercise generosity

- Teach and talk about generosity