

The True Meaning of Christmas

THE SECRET TO JOYFUL GIVING

Part 2; December 6, 2009

“Everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ. More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them filth, so that I may gain Christ *Philippians 3:7-8 HCSB*

The Treasure Principle: You can't take it with you, but you can _____

Six Keys to Joyful Giving

1. God Owns Everything, _____

“Well done, good and faithful slave! **You were faithful** over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master's joy!” *Matthew 25:21, 23 HCSB*

“For **God will reward every person** according to what each has done.” *Romans 2:6 GNT*

“The Lord will reward everyone, whether slave or free, **for the good work they do.**” *Ephesians 6:8 GNT*

“You can be sure that whoever gives even a drink of cold water to one of the least of these my followers because he is my follower, **will certainly receive a reward.**” *Matthew 10:42 GNT*

2. My Heart always goes _____

“For where **your treasure** is, there your heart will be also.” *Matthew 6:21 NIV*

- If your treasures are on earth, you are one day closer _____

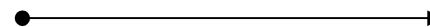
“[Moses] **valued suffering** in the Messiah's camp far greater **than** Egyptian **wealth** because he was looking ahead, anticipating the payoff.” *Hebrews 11:26 MSG*

3. _____, Not Earth, Is _____

“**We are ambassadors** for Christ; certain that God is appealing through us, we plead on Christ's behalf, “be reconciled to God.” *2 Corinthians 5:20 HCSB*

“All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only ... welcomed them from a distance... they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth... **longing for a better country—a heavenly one.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.” *Hebrews 11:13, 16 NIV*

4. I should not live for _____



- Name two resources that take time and resources away from pursuits that would benefit God's Kingdom

5. _____ Is The Only Antidote To Materialism

“Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, **but on God**, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation **for the age to come**, so that they may take hold of life that is real” *1 Timothy 6:17-19 HCSB*

6. God Prospers Me, Not To Raise My Standard Of Living, But To _____

“**Give** and it will be given to you” *Luke 6:38 HCSB*

“Keep me from lying, and **let me be neither rich nor poor.** So give me only as much food as I need. If I have more, I might say that I do not need you. But if I am poor, I might steal and bring disgrace on my God.” *Proverbs 30:8-9 GNT*