

THE TREASURE PRINCIPLE

HANDOUT

Session 3: The Sacrifice of Giving

REVIEW

The **third key** to the treasure principle is: “Heaven—not earth—is our true home.” Despite our destiny, however, we can often find ourselves trusting in money or the things money buys to make us happy. Have you ever seen someone become truly happy and satisfied by earning or winning more money? If so, where? If not, why weren’t they happy?

Heaven being our home doesn’t mean we’re destined for some ethereal existence sitting on clouds playing harps. What difference does it make if you view our eternal destination as a remade earth, instead of a disembodied, ethereal “heaven”?

1 Peter 3:10–13. In light of the temporary nature of our belongings and our money, what should our attitude be toward earthly “stuff”?

In the real life story, what did Keith and his wife feel led to do with their money? How did God respond to their step of faith?

What resulted for Keith and his family from giving away their money rather than hoarding it?

What are you tempted to hoard? Why? Has it satisfied you? What emotions surge to the surface when you consider giving it away?

Randy described the **fourth key** of the treasure principle as: “I should live, not for the dot, but for the line.” What is the dot? What was the line? What’s the difference between living for the dot or the line? What does it look like?

Have you ever thought of yourself as immortal in light of your salvation? If so, how has it changed your outlook on life? If not, what does the promise of immortality mean for how you live now?

In the past, how have you viewed death? How has your view of death impacted the way you view your money and possessions?

Randy pointed out that the more we focus on the line—giving sacrificially and investing in God’s kingdom—the greater reward there’ll be for us in our immortal lives. How does the idea of rewards in eternity sit with you?

If the rewards are God’s idea, how do you feel about investing in them? Why?

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Hebrews 11:1–6. According to Hebrews, what is faith? How does that definition of faith fit with what Randy’s been teaching on eternal perspectives?

Hebrews 11:7–19. How did verses 9–10 describe Abraham’s view of his own wanderings? What was he looking forward to?

Hebrews 11:20–29. What was Moses looking forward to? How did it impact the way that Moses lived his life? What did he give up? What did he stand to gain?

Hebrews 11:39–40. What’s your reaction to the idea that men and women have lived for centuries with a mind toward eternity? What does it mean to you that the way you use your money is an outward expression of heroic faith? Why?

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Hebrews 12:1–2. Why does the writer of Hebrews use the image of a runner? Why does a runner run?

What weight or sin might be slowing you down as you run the race of the Christian life? How do those weights or sins impede your generosity? What could you do to remove them?

Does knowing that Jesus, too, lived with an eternal perspective encourage you? Why or why not?

If Jesus counted eternal reward worth sacrificial giving, what room does that leave us to hoard our money to ourselves?

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete during the next week.

- Take Action:** Keep a record this week of the “weights” you invest your time and money into. We’re not talking about the necessities—gas, food, time with family—but note the non-essentials. Then pick one you could work toward eliminating in favor of an eternal focus.
- Perspective Shift:** Find or buy a long piece of rope—15 feet or more. Take a permanent marker (maybe black or red) and color the first half-inch of the rope. Leave the rope on your desk or dresser or any place you’ll see it regularly. Allow the rope to remind you to live for the line and not the dot.
- Memorize:** Commit the next two keys of the treasure principle to memory: “Heaven—not earth—is our true home,” and “I should live, not for the dot, but for the line.” Allow the truths of these principles to soak into your mind.
- Interact:** Identify someone in your life (in your church, family, workplace) that makes eternity a priority in the way they live. Take the time to speak with them this week and ask how they order their life to reflect eternity.
- Pray:** Spend time asking God this week to step in and divinely impart patience. Ask for the faith and the confidence to look toward eternity, and to live well in the present.