

I want to begin the devotional with a bold question, “**Are You Wasting Your LIFE?**”...And if so, please be kind enough not to drag anyone else with you.

I am sure nobody here thinks that they are wasting their life and I hope that I did not offend anyone. To help appreciate this question, let’s address what many people and society believe/define is the **purpose**, the **focus** and even the **essence** of life? For many people, life is the pursuit of a great **education**...a great **job** or **career**... of **wealth**...and to some it is to obtain **fame**? Usually it’s all with the end objective of being **rich** and **wealthy**.

To shed light on how pointless these things are we need to consider them in perspective in a person’s life. How important are these things, and the pursuit of these things, to you if you were on your death bed diagnosed with a terminal illness? Will your education, your PhD, miraculously heal you? Or will your place of employment stop business over concerns for you? Do you think money will magically halt your impending death? And seriously, what good is any amount of fame during this time? It is really hard to hold value to any of these things when you are about to die. I am not trying to draw a grim picture, **BUT** what is scary, is the reality of how friends, family and the society in general strive so hard to obtain these misplaced goals.

I am not claiming that having a good education, job, wealth, or even fame is bad; however it is important to realize what place these items have in your life. Jesus puts it best through a Bible parable (story) in the book of Luke (Luke 12:15-21).

Luke 12:15-21 (ESV)

*¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for **one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**” ¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, ^x ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up ^zfor many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So is the one ^ewho lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”*

Here the Lord, Jesus Christ teaches us about the dangers of greed and focusing on possessions. He states that “one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” The counter to this warning is to store up riches and treasures towards God and heavenly things.

I understand that this may seem extreme to some of you and even ridiculous to others. You may even be wondering what this all means. What does it mean “to store or lay up treasures in heaven”? To clarify this answer we will look further into the bible, which we know, “...is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV).

In **Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV)**, Jesus warns us “¹⁹...not [to] lay up for [ourselves] treasures on earth, where moth and rust⁶ destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but [to] lay up for [ourselves] treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Why seek temporary, illusive things when there is something everlasting and much better, heavenly treasures? This priceless treasure of salvation from our sins can be acquired through faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and saviour over the bondage of sin. The bible teaches us about this great gift, and treasure, of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-10,12-21 (ESV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them...¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ,

x [Eccles. 5:10] ¹⁰ He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.

Vanity: excessive pride in one's appearance, qualities, abilities, achievements, etc.; character or quality of being vain; conceit

z [Prov. 27:1] ¹ Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring. ² Let another praise you, and not your own mouth;

e [Matt. 6:19, 20] ¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

⁶ Or worm; also verse 20

alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ... ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, ³ but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the **cornerstone**, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by ⁴ the Spirit.

And how precious and joyous is this treasure in heaven.

Matthew 13:44-46 (ESV)

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

As some of you are still contemplating over the meaning and essence of life...over the things that you value, let me categorize you into the two groups John Piper categorizes all people, he states, “**You are in one of two groups: Either you are a Christian, or God is now calling you to be one.**”² Let me encourage you by saying that you would not be here listening to me if God were not at work in your life.

Wow...What a great example of God’s grace and mercy, “⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.” (Romans 5:6-11 ESV)

I know that I have said a lot of things and many of these things may be confusing and unclear to some of you, but I only ask that you keep an open to the possibility and amazing opportunity, that what I am saying is true. If you have any questions please feel welcome to ask me or your governors. I am more than happy to try and answer your questions. I am also happy to share these devotional notes with you.

Lessons:

1. Consider whether or not you are wasting your life.
2. What is the meaning of life: Salvation from sins through faith in Jesus Christ! Seeking to Glorify God!
3. How = it has to do with our hearts

Application:

1. Consider what you are striving for in your life. Have you giving your heart to Jesus Christ?
2. Seek and ask questions that you may have.

I will be expanding more on this treasure of salvation and what it means throughout our future Cornerstone devotionals. If any of you want to obtain these notes please talk to me or visit our website and where they will be posted.

³ Or *sojourners*

⁴ Or *in*

² Piper, John. *Don't Waste Your Life*. (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books - Good News Publishing, 2003), 9.

¹ [John 3:16-18] ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.