

## ***Personal Tune-up for 2007***

Tuning UP My Finances –  
February 18, 2007

"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where they can be eaten by moths and get rusty, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where they will never become moth-eaten or rusty and where they will be safe from thieves.

*Matthew chapter 6, verses 19 & 20 (737)*

- ✓ Jesus was not advocating a life of poverty or neglect of our obligations.
- ✓ Literally he says, "*Stop storing up earthly treasures*"
- ✓ Distinguish between what is lasting and what isn't.
- ✓ Compare and contrast the time you spend on that which will last with the stuff that won't last.
- ✓ Jesus wanted people to come to grips with what is really at their hearts desire.

### **1. I need to put money and possessions in their proper place.**

I can learn from King Solomon.

Those who love money will never have enough. How absurd to think that wealth brings true happiness! The more you have, the more people come to help you spend it. So what is the advantage of wealth-except perhaps to watch it run through your fingers!

*Ecclesiastes chapter 5, verse 10-11 (507)*

- ✓ Solomon is not preaching , he is telling his story.
- ✓ You can't take material riches with you when you head into eternity.
- ✓ There is pressure all around me to place too high a value on the material.

### **2. God owns everything. I'm His money manager.**

The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.

*Psalms chapter 24, verse 1 (423)*

- ✓ God is generous with his children.
- ✓ God promises to provide for our needs.
- ✓ A manager has no rights just responsibilities.
- ✓ Those who use well what they have been given will be given more.

The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'

*Matthew chapter 25, verse 23 (756)*

### **3. My heart always goes where I put God's money.**

Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be.

*Matthew chapter 6, verse 21 (737)*

- Put your treasure on earth and your heart will follow.
- Put your treasure in heaven and inevitably your heart will follow.

People who work hard sleep well, whether they eat little or much. But the rich are always worrying and seldom get a good night's sleep. *Ecclesiastes chapter 5, verse 12 (507)*

- ✓ Do thoughts of material things consume you?
- ✓ Materialism can be the problem of both the rich and the poor.

#### **4. I should live not for the dot but for the line.**

● ← Your life on earth.

————— Your life in Eternity —————

And this world is fading away, along with everything it craves. But if you do the will of God, you will live forever. *1 John chapter 2, verse 17 (941)*

But whatever happens to me, you must live in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ, as citizens of heaven. *Philippians chapter 1, verse 27 (899)*

Heaven, not earth, is my real home.

#### **5. Giving is the only antidote to materialism**

If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving-large or small-it will be used to measure what is given back to you.“ *Luke chapter 6, verse 38 (786)*

- God created me to be a channel not a reservoir.
- Giving breaks the hold of money in my life.
- God prospers me not to raise my standard of living but to raise my standard of giving.
- You are never more like God than when you are giving.

So where do I go from here?

- ✓ Invite God into your financial life first through prayer and then through planning.
- ✓ Take inventory of your financial habits and determine what needs to change in order to store up heavenly treasure. God will show you.
- ✓ Treat every spending decision as spiritual decision.
- ✓ Seek help through Bethel's *Goodsense* budgeting course. New classes begin 3/1.
- ✓ Make sure you honoring God through your giving.
- ✓ Trust God for the results.

Some information from this talk was taken from Randy Alcorn's book "The Treasure Principle"

Next week: Tuning up the Physical