

# WORKING WITH ETERNITY IN MIND

DATE: SUNDAY, 31ST OF OCTOBER 2021 | GOD AT WORK SERIES: PART 4

TALK  
IT OVER

## MATTHEW 6:19-21

*'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'*

## 1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19

*Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age ...*

### NOTES FOR LEADERS:

Join us on Sunday the 14th of November for the official opening of our building extension. We are going to be celebrating all that God has done through the Above & Beyond building project.

There will be an opportunity for you to walk through the new building after each service that Sunday.

## START TALKING

1. What was your key takeaway from Sunday's message
2. If you were given one million Rand that you were not allowed to keep, but had to give away [but not to relatives], what would you do with it?

## START THINKING

1. Read Matthew 6:19-21. What stands out to you from this verse? How do you think having an 'eternal view' of our lives changes the way that we live and work?
2. In 1 Timothy 6:17-19, we are told HOW to store up treasure for ourselves in heaven. Who are some of the generous and kind-hearted Christ-followers in your world who have inspired you by their example?

## START SHARING

1. How would things in your life be different if you were more aware of 'working in light of eternity'? What steps can you take to help change your mindset?
2. In what areas is God challenging you to be more generous and to be rich in good deeds?

## START PRAYING

Heavenly Father, the easiest thing in the world is to live a self-centred life. Yet in your incredible generosity, you tell us in Your word that in this life, we get to invest into eternity. We ask for a greater revelation and understanding of how we live now impacts eternity. We want to live constantly with eternity in mind.

## START DOING

This week, spend some time thinking of the different ways that the church shows care to people who are in need. (If you can't think of any, do some research by asking others in your group). Where/how do you sense God calling you to get involved?

# SUMMARY

## OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, in the final week of our "God at Work" series, Steve shared a message about working with eternity in mind.

The Bible teaches that our life here on earth can sometimes be really difficult - our problems don't go away because we have faith in Christ. But when it comes to working, we should carry out our day to day activities with eternity in mind. No matter how good (or bad) this life is, we should be living in anticipation of the eternal life that awaits us.

In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus says: *'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'*

An eternal view brings into perspective the things we do in this life. What we do in this life impacts what happens in eternity, so we need to make it count! Our work (our productive activity) should always be done with eternity in mind.

### How do we store up treasures in heaven? What does that mean to us practically?

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. **In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age ...** 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

#### 1. When we do good deeds, we are sending treasure on ahead.

To get rich and to be rich are two different things. To get rich is to store up wealth. To be rich is to excel in good deeds and helping the poor - but we don't do this to earn our place in heaven because Christ has already secured that. We do good deeds because Christ saved us!

In Acts chapter 9, there is a story of Tabitha, who died and was raised to life again. *In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor.* Acts 9:36. The lens of the writer is viewing her work in light of eternity. In the eyes of Jesus, doing good and helping the poor is storing up treasure in heaven.

As a local church, we get to be involved in doing good deeds and helping the poor in so many ways!

#### 2. When we give treasure away, we are sending it on ahead.

This is contrary to a worldly view on riches, which is all about savings, investments, and returns. In the world's eyes, the amount of our riches that we get to keep = our treasure. On the day we die, we'll take none of our earthly riches into heaven. And YET, Jesus says how we use our earthly treasure impacts our eternity! e.g. Giving into the Above & Beyond building project, giving funds to Nation Changers and CityHope Disaster Relief and tithing are all examples of sending treasures ahead of us into eternity.

Think of every good deed you've ever done and every cent you've given away in generosity and faith. How many thousands of actions does that amount to? Every one of those has stored up treasure for you in eternity!

That should stir us to invest even more into eternity. The heart of generosity is selfless. Whatever God gives to us (time, talent, treasure) is for us to invest in doing good deeds and impacting the lives of others.

### A question to ask yourself if you're involved in business in some form:

- Am I a business person who happens to be a Christian?
- Or am I a Christ-follower who happens to be in business?

There is a world of difference between the two ways of thinking!

In the Bible is an amazing couple, Aquila and Priscilla, who were tent-makers. We see numerous examples of how their business advanced the Gospel. They didn't see themselves as business people who happened to be Christians, but rather the other way around.

*After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.* Acts 18:1-4.

*Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila... They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila.*

*Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervour and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue.*

*When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.* Acts 18:18-26

Paul was able to plant a church in Corinth through the generosity of Aquila and Priscilla. In Romans 16:3 and 1 Corinthians 16:19, Paul sends greetings to Aquila and Priscilla as well as the people who meet in the church in their home. Aquila and Priscilla were amazing examples of what it means to work with eternity in mind!

Your business has a unique ability to advance God's kingdom and to change the world through:

- productive economic activity,
- acts of kindness,
- employment creation,
- wealth creation that can fund Kingdom activities.

Imagine if all Christ-followers used our time and income as opportunities to advance the Kingdom - if we worked with eternity in mind? We don't work for the church or our earthly bosses. We work for the Master because of eternity.