

CHAPTER 3/4 “Eyes on Eternity”

Contrast Borden and King Tut graves and epitaphs. Borden, “Apart from faith in Christ there is no explanation for such a life.”³⁸

If you trust scripture, you will be filled with anticipation for your heavenly home. Heaven will be a place of rest and relief from sin and suffering; but it will also be a place of great learning, activity, artistic expression, exploration, camaraderie and service. 41

HERB: everything good on earth is a taste, a shadow, a tease of Heaven.

God is keeping track of our smallest acts of kindness, a record of all we do for Him, including giving, so that He can reward us in eternity. (Malachi 3:16), 39

You must believe it is right to want to do what Jesus tells you to do: ***store up for yourself in Heaven.***

Scripture brims with passages in which God promises rewards for our faithfulness to Him.

Rewards are God’s ideas, not ours!

Luke 14:13–14 (ESV) ¹³But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

Matthew 5:10–12 (ESV)

Matthew 6:1–6 (ESV)

Matthew 6:16–20 (ESV)

Colossians 3:23–25 (ESV) ²³Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

2 John 8 (ESV) ⁸Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.

Our instinct is to give to those who will give us something in return/ giving is a giant lever on the fulcrum of this world, allowing us to move mountains in the next world. Because we give, eternity will be different, 41

Giving is a giant lever positioned on the fulcrum of this world, allowing us to move mountains in the next world. Because we give, eternity will be different – for others and for us.

Many Christians dread the thought of leaving this world ... because so many have stored up their treasures on earth and not in Heaven, 44

EX: John Wesley, “I think you’re going to have a hard time leaving all this.”

EX. Laverne, dying of terminal cancer... “What else matters than hearing ‘Well done...’? Why should I care about anything else?”

KEY 2: My heart always goes where I put God’s money.

Show me your bank records and your Visa statement, and I’ll show you where your heart is.

What we do with our money doesn’t simply indicate **where** our hearts are. According to Jesus, it **determines** where our hearts **go**.

EX. buy shares in a company and you suddenly develop an interest in that company

As surely as the compass needle follows north, your heart will follow your treasure. Money leads; hearts follow.

This is a remarkable truth. If I want my heart somewhere all I need to do is **put my money there**.

If I want more of a heart for missions (or anything else), **put your money there**. YOUR HEART WILL FOLLOW. 44

God wants your heart.

REALITY CHECK: we need to feed, clothe, house and transport our families. ***But when basics are taken care of, why shouldn't the rest go toward treasures in Heaven?***

He who lays up **treasures on earth** spends his life **backing away from his treasures**.

To him, death is LOSS.

He who lays up **treasures in heaven** looks forward to eternity; he's **moving daily toward treasures**.

To him, death is GAIN

He who spends his life moving away from his treasures has reason to **despair**.

He who spends his life moving toward his treasures has reason to **rejoice!**

Are you despairing or rejoicing? 45

CHAPTER 4/5 “Roadblocks to Giving”

Why is it so hard to give when we know Christ commands it and offers great rewards for giving?

There are many roadblocks, 48

The greatest deterrent to giving is the illusion that earth is our home, 48

KEY 3: Heaven, not earth, is my home.

2 Corinthians 5:1 (ESV) ¹For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Philippians 3:20 (ESV) ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Peter 2:11 (ESV) ¹¹Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

Bible: we are pilgrims, strangers, aliens, ambassadors, citizens of a better country

Where we choose to store our treasures depends largely on where we think our home is. You send your money to where your home is, 49. When visiting another country one spends only what is needed on the temporary residence while sending treasures on ahead to home

Every day of our lives we're traveling to the wedding – **OUR WEDDING** 50

Everything we do for Christ we send on ahead. It will be waiting for us there as material for Jesus to build our eternal home. **if we would let this reality sink in, it would change the way we think and live,**

illus. Junkyard, the final resting place for **EVERYTHING** we accumulate in this life. sooner or later everything ends up there

He who dies with the most toys still dies – and leaves his toys behind. We move into eternity but our stuff stays behind.

Our lives are two phases: **one a dot, the other a line**

Present life on earth is the dot. It begins and ends. It's brief.

Eternity is the line – it extends from the dot.

We live **IN** the dot, but we have a choice of what we live **FOR**: earth or eternity

The short sighted person lives for the dot, the person with perspective lives for the future, 52

KEY 4: I should not live for the dot, but for the line.

Giving is living for the line

We'll each part with our money, the only question is when. We have no choice but to part with it later, but we **DO** have a choice whether to part with it **NOW**.

Jim Eliot's famous words, "**He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.**" Tendency is to think of him as someone who didn't think about gain. Gain was **precisely** what Jim was thinking about, he just wanted the kind that he couldn't lose – treasures in Heaven, 53

Possession obsession - PBS program, "Affluenza" argues from a pragmatic position that materialism doesn't make us happy/ words of some of the wealthiest people who ever lived/ we think we own our possessions, but in reality they own us/

Nothing makes a journey more difficult than a heavy backpack filled with nice but unnecessary things. **PILGRIMS TRAVEL LIGHT**, 55

Every item we buy is one more thing to think about, talk about, clean, repair, rearrange, fret over, and replace when it goes bad. **So what's the true cost of my "free" television?** 55

The problem isn't a possession. The problem is me – how I allow the possession to redefine my priorities. It's the law of life, **THE TYRANNY OF THINGS**.

Eccl. 5:10-15. Solomon's conclusion as the wealthiest man on earth was that affluence doesn't satisfy. Ecclesiastes 5:11, "It's all chasing after the wind"

So why do we keep getting fooled? Because our hearts yearn for treasure here & now. We imagine that the earthly treasures we see are the genuine items rather than mere shadows of true treasures. 58

If affluenza is the disease, what's the cure? If materialism is the poison, what is the antidote?

Paul brings us right back to the Treasure Principle 59

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (ESV)

KEY 5: Giving is the only antidote to materialism. 60

The act of giving is a reminder that **it is all about God, not about us**.

I am not the point, He is the point.

He does not exist for me, I exist for Him.

God's money has a higher purpose than my affluence.

Giving is a joyful surrender to a greater person and a greater agenda.

Giving affirms Christ's lordship. It dethrones me and exalts Him. It breaks the chains of mammon that would enslave me. As long as I still have something, I believe I own it. But when I give it away, I relinquish control, power and prestige. The light turns on, the spell is broken, my mind clears, I recognize God as the owner and others as intended beneficiaries of what God entrusted to me.

Giving doesn't strip me of vested interests, rather it shifts my vested interests from earth to heaven – from self to God.

Money isn't all I can give. Time, wisdom, expertise – giving in any form breaks affluenza's fever, 59
It would be depressing if this world were our home.

CS Lewis' words – mudpies, we are too easily pleased, 61

Even many Christians have settled for a life of unsatisfying material acquisitions. There's so much more that God offers.

Takeaways...



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