

Our Supreme Treasure

Selected Scriptures

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Introduction

Random Top 10 Lists of the most important things in life to treasure or the things that make people happy included:

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| 1. Music | 1. Family & Relationships |
| 2. Loved Ones | 2. Meaningful Work |
| 3. Food & Nourishment | 3. Positive Thinking |
| 4. Shelter | 4. Gratitude |
| 5. Learning & Education | 5. Forgiveness |
| 6. Natural Spaces | 6. Giving to Others |
| 7. Plants & Animals | 7. Religion |
| 8. Culture & Discovery | 8. Personal Freedom |
| 9. Spirituality & Religion | 9. Good Health |
| 10. Your Health | 10. Watching TV |

What do we value/treasure most in this life and look forward to the most in the life to come?

It's not difficult to discover what we treasure or value the most or the things that make us happiest. All we have to do is look at what we spend our money on and what we spend our time thinking about and doing.

Our mission as a church is that "we strive to be fully satisfied in Christ as our supreme treasure joyfully overflowing to fulfill God's purposes for each of us."

In, *God is the Gospel*, John Piper asks the question, "Would you be happy in heaven if Christ were not there?" This might seem like a strange question at first but Piper clarifies the question further with another question.

"If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, is Christ were not there?" (p. 15)

The answer to this question will reveal to us what our greatest treasure is.

We must be careful that we do not love the benefits of the gospel (Ps. 103:1-5) more than we love the God of the gospel (1 Peter 3:18).

Let's look at how Scripture answers the question concerning the object of the believer's supreme treasure.

Psalm 16:2, 5, 11

²I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good besides You."

⁵The LORD is the portion of my inheritance and my cup;
You support my lot.

¹¹You will make known to me the path of life;
In Your presence is fullness of joy;
In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Psalm 27:4

⁴One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of the LORD
And to meditate in His temple.

Psalm 73:25-26, 28

²⁵Whom have I in heaven but You?
And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.

²⁶My flesh and my heart may fail,
But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

²⁸But as for me, the nearness of God is my good;
I have made the Lord GOD my refuge,
That I may tell of all Your works.

Philippians 1:20-24

...Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²²But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. ²³But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; ²⁴yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

Philippians 3:7-14

⁷But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 11:24-26

²⁴By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

Q. What is the ultimate purpose of the gospel?

A. The ultimate purpose of the gospel is to bring us to God.

1 Peter 3:18

¹⁸For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

Q. Why don't people treasure the gospel?

A. Because the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelieving.

2 Corinthians 4:3-5

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

Example: Eve – Genesis 3:6 “When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.”

1 John 2:15-17

¹⁵Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Examples: Esau (Genesis 25:34); Rich Young Ruler (Matthew 19:16-26)

Q. How, then, can anyone can anyone see and believe the gospel of the glory of Christ?

A. Only by God's grace.

2 Corinthians 4:6

⁶For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Q. What are hindrances for believers that keep them from growing in and enjoying the supremacy of Christ in all things?

A. Sin

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the same, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Q. What can I do to treasure Christ more than the things of this world?

Learn to grow in your love for God by growing in the knowledge of God in Scripture. (Col. 1:9-10; 2 Peter 1:2-8; 3:17-18)

Fight against sin in your life. (Heb. 12:1-2; Eph. 6:10-17)

Meditate on the glory of God in the face of Christ. (2 Cor. 4:4, 6) Meditate on the preeminence of Christ in all things (Col. 1:18-20; 2:1-3,9; 3:1, 11)

Fellowship with other believers who are striving to be fully satisfied in Christ as our supreme treasure. (Heb. 10:24-25)