

Gracenomics: Redeeming your Treasure

(2 Tim. 4:6-8)

Introduction

- Graceconomics part III (Authority and Accountability// Redeeming our time (priceless))
 - **Let us first remove the awkwardness**
 1. Some of you are thinking this morning... here we go the church asking for money.
 - Guess what? You found your idol
 - **In fact, 15% of everything Christ said relates to this topic (money) – more than his teachings on heaven and hell combined. (Every 8 weeks or 8th sermon)**
 - How dare we as a church not teach what our Savior teaches
 2. Some this morning are not being faithful and you are ashamed of that. My prayer is that the Lord takes away your shame and gives you the faith to give in a way that honors Him.
 - If you are intentionally choosing not to be faithful remember: **21** *The one who has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. And the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father. I also will love him and will reveal Myself to him.*
 3. Some have no clue that Jesus Christ ever discussed our treasure. I pray today will be a treat for you and that the Lord will open up pathways for you to be faithful and faithfully rewarded. And that His joy would increase in your life!!!
-

Why Should I give?

God owns and I am His manager (Luke 19:12)

- Jesus Christ has a masterful way of getting through to our heads and hearts by stories
 - Often, God lets us experience a story physically to teach us a spiritual lesson
- **This is a heavenly spiritual concept; God owns everything including your stuff.**
- *A steward manages assets for the owner's benefits.*
- *The steward carries no sense of entitlement to the assets he manages (entitlement = the belief that one is deserving)*

- Wesley replied, “**No, it hasn’t, because I don’t own a house.** The one I have been living in belongs to the Lord, and if it has burned down, that is one less responsibility for me to worry about.”
- Are you a me first or master first giver?

My Heart Goes where I put God’s money (Luke 12:21 and 34)

- Do you want to know where your heart is? Follow the money
 - We say this in conjunction with shady deals, political policies, or interesting recruiting strategies.
 - But what about your life?
 - Do you prioritize your treasure of His tithe, earthly security over heavenly safety, riches over relationship, and Disney over discipleship, jewels over Jesus, and your bills over your Heavenly benefits?
- Our approach to money is not just **important**, it is **central** to our spiritual lives.
 - Show me a follow of Jesus what is generous and I will show you one that is maturing in their faith. Show me a follow of the way that is a miser, greedy, and stingy, and I will show you man who lacks faith and trust.
- The greatest indictment against the rich fool (**Luke 12:16-21**) – and the **proof** of his **spiritual condition**—is that he was rich toward himself, but not rich toward God.
- “He is no fool that gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose” –Jim Elliot (killed in Ecuador)
- Where is your heart today?

God prospers me not to raise my standard of living but giving (2 Cor. 8:13-15)

- **God abundantly gives to us that we may help those who lack**
 - One of the greatest joys I have as pastor is seeing our people reach out and feed 55+ families a week and 65+ kids every weekend.
 - We can do more... we can love more... we can give more
 - If God has given me abundance... you should not lack
- Suppose you send an important package, wrapped beautifully, and hand it to the UPS delivery man. What would you think if he took it home, opened it up and kept it.
 - You would say this man does not get it... he is the middleman, the one who gives it to someone else. Oh that we would not be this man!
- Remember: the greatest standard of living in the standard set by your Savior not by your neighbor.
 - Do you have enough?
 - Are you ready to give?

How should I give?

From my first not my leftovers (Deut 26:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:20)

- When we give first, it shows the Lord is a priority in our life
 - Look at who you let go first at meals: special guests and special persons
 - If you give to God **last** what does that say about your faith?
- We don't expect God's leftovers
- When we give first... we let trust and let God work out the rest
- When we give first, we put our thankfulness on display
- If you wait until the end... you will never have enough to give

As an act of worship (2 Cor 9:7)

- When we give cheerfully/joyfully it does something to our heart
- Actually giving/worship/ and joy go hand to hand
- Do you want to be loved by God? Give cheerfully and you know God loves that!
- Giving is worship because it is directed unto the Lord. Giving directed toward self is idolatry
 - "Do not give, as many rich men do, like a hen that lays an egg, and then cackles."— Henry Ward Beecher

Consistently and abundantly (Mal 3:8-10)

- Because God gives consistently (daily bread) and abundantly He expects the same
 - Tithe = 10th
 - For the NT believer it is unhealthy to view tithing as a place to stop, but it can still be a good place to start.
 - Far be it for us to ask "Lord what is the least I can give?"
- "Give according to your income, lest God make your income according to your giving." — unknown
- When we give consistently and abundantly, our faith will become consistent and abundant and His grace will overflow consistently and abundantly

Conclusion

God sees your finances and your faith as inseparable.

Oh that you will experience the joy of giving today! To hear the words well done good and faithful servant!

Will you take the next step?



One More offering next month

- By sitting in your seat you are agreeing that you are right with God and do not today need to profess Him as Lord.
- Do you have a Savior Story?

Why does it Matter?

- We have been justified (made right before the Lord) and accepted
- We receive forgiveness (redeemed)
- We escape God's wrath (reconciled)
- We are adopted in to a new family
- We gain a new identity (New Creation)
- **Believe, Confess, Faith, Baptism**

Notes

This letter was written by Paul from a Roman prison while he was under a sentence of death.

- Paul sent this very personal letter, with many pastoral instructions and guidelines, to Timothy, his protégé and spiritual son.
- The letter was delivered to Timothy somewhere in Asia Minor, perhaps in the city of Ephesus.

4 They will turn away from hearing the truth and will turn aside to myths.^a **5** But as for you, be serious about everything, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist,^a fulfill your ministry.

4:6 Paul linked this verse with the preceding verse by use of an emphatic “I” (*egō*), which the NEB renders “as for me.” He also used an explanatory “for” to introduce the verse. Paul was saying to Timothy in vv. 5–6, “As for you, keep your head ... because as for me I am going to depart” (author’s translation). The apostle used two metaphors to describe his anticipated death.

Paul had had his preliminary hearing before Nero, and was expecting the final one, and death. He knew it would not be crucifixion, for a citizen of the Roman Empire was not crucified. If the death penalty was demanded by the State, it would be decapitation, hence the figurative reference to a libation.

were probably a substitute for the blood used in heathen sacrifices (Ps 16:4). They were totally expended or poured out as an accompaniment to the burnt offering in the sanctuary (Num 28:7). Paul had used this metaphor in Phil 2:17. The present tense of the verb for “being poured out” suggests Paul’s awareness that this was an act then underway. Paul was aware that he was slowly dying in God’s service, and he felt that the shedding of his blood in martyrdom would complete the drink offering to God. He viewed the entire ordeal as a libation to God.

Second, he described his “departure” or death with a verb that pictures the departure of a ship by lifting its anchor or the breaking up of camp by a group of soldiers. Both the ship and the soldiers were going home, and the idea of going home was an accepted euphemism for death. Paul used the verbal form of the noun “departure” in Phil 1:23 (“depart”) to picture the possibility of his death. By faith Paul gave a marvelous appraisal of the grim prospects of his death

2Tim. 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a ^adrink offering, and the time for my departure is close.

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

4:7 Paul found three metaphors to reflect the struggles of his ministry, not merely the difficulties of his life. His use of three Greek perfect tenses suggests that something was completed with consequences that still abide. The fight and the race were over, but the victory still abides. Paul had kept the faith, and it remains unshaken. Interpreters differ over whether the “fight” is a race (“I have done my best in the race,” GNB) or a boxing or wrestling match as the NIV suggests. Fee supports the former, and Kelly opts for the latter. Fee is probably correct in suggesting that Paul was not commenting about having done his best in the contest but was saying that he “has been running in the noblest, grandest run of them all—the ministry of the gospel.”

To “have finished the race” involves a foot race as a metaphor. Paul was not commending himself for having “run the full distance” (GNB) but was stating that he had followed the course laid out by his Lord. For a similar metaphor see Paul’s expression in Acts 20:24.

“I have finished my course.” The Greek word translated “course” (*dromos* (δρομος)) refers to a race course, the cinder path of the present day college athletic field. The words “have finished” (*teleō* (τελεω)) are also in the perfect tense. Like a Greek runner, he has crossed the finishing line and is now resting at the goal. His life’s work is over.

8 There is reserved for me in the future the crown^a of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge,^b will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved His appearing.^c

4:8 The victory Paul received as a consequence of his accomplishments in the good fight is described as a “crown of righteousness.” The crown was a reward given to a victorious athlete for prowess in a contest (see 1 Cor 9:25). It was usually a perishable wreath woven from ivy, leaves, or flowers.

Illustrations

- **What if I gave you money what would be obsolete in 3 weeks?**
 - **But what if I told you everything that you spent for the king would turn into an eternal treasure**

Application

- Work has dignity because it is something that God does and because we do it in God's place, as his
-