

>> THE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH. THIS IS GBN, THE GOSPEL BROADCASTING NETWORK.

>> AMEN. WE SHALL RISE ON THAT RESURRECTION MORNING WHEN THESE PRISON BARS ARE BROKEN. WE SHALL RISE, HALLELUJAH, WE SHALL RISE.

>> HELLO AGAIN, AND WELCOME TO COUNTERPOINT. I'M MIKE HIXSON. WITH ME AS ALWAYS, B.J. CLARKE. B.J., IT IS ALWAYS GOOD TO BE WITH YOU.

>> IT'S GOOD TO BE WITH YOU, TOO, MIKE.

>> B.J., TODAY WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT LAYING UP FOR OURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN. IN MATTHEW CHAPTER 6 JESUS SAID, DO NOT LAY UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES ON EARTH, WHERE MOTH AND RUST DESTROY, WHERE THIEVES BREAK IN AND STEAL; BUT LAY UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN, WHERE NEITHER MOTH NOR RUST DESTROYS, AND WHERE THIEVES DO NOT BREAK IN AND STEAL. FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO. IT'S INTERESTING THAT JESUS PLACES AN EMPHASIS ON LAYING UP FOR OURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN AS OPPOSED TO THAT WHICH IS ON EARTH, AND YET MOST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY, THEY'RE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT LAYING UP FOR THE HERE AND NOW RATHER THAN ETERNITY. SO HOW DO YOU COUNTER A CULTURE THAT SEEMS TO BE MORE INTERESTED IN WHAT'S GOING ON NOW THAN LATER?

>> TRY TO LET THEM KNOW THAT THE SCRIPTURES UNIFORMLY TEACH YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU. PSALM 49 COMES TO MIND, WHICH SAYS IN VERSE 16, BE NOT THOU AFRAID WHEN ONE IS MADE RICH, WHEN THE GLORY OF HIS HOUSE IS INCREASED; FOR WHEN HE DIETH, HE SHALL CARRY NOTHING AWAY. HIS GLORY SHALL NOT DESCEND AFTER HIM. THOUGH WHILE HE LIVED HE BLESSED HIS SOUL, AND OH, MEN WILL PRAISE YOU WHEN YOU DO WELL TO YOURSELF. HE SHALL GO TO THE GENERATION OF HIS FATHERS; THEY'LL NEVER SEE LIGHT. YOU CAN'T READ THAT PASSAGE WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT THE STORY OF THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS THERE IN LUKE 16, BECAUSE WHILE HE LIVED HE BLESSED HIS SOUL, THAT RICH MAN DID. HE FARED SUMPTUOUSLY EVERY DAY AND HAD THE FINEST OF CLOTHING AND LIVED IN A MANSION NO DOUBT COMPARED TO WHAT LAZARUS LIVED IN AND LIVED AT. AND YOU THINK ABOUT IT, FOR WHAT? FOR WHAT? LIKE THE RICH FOOL IN LUKE 12, HE DIED, AND HE DIDN'T TAKE ANY OF IT WITH HIM. THE BIBLE MAKES THAT CLEAR OVER AND AGAIN. SINCE YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU, WHERE YOUR SHOULD YOUR FOCUS REALLY BE?

>> YOU KNOW, I THINK THAT'S AN INTERESTING QUESTION, B.J., BECAUSE IN LUKE CHAPTER 12 JESUS HAD SAID, TAKE HEED AND BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS. HE SAID, FOR A MAN'S LIFE CONSISTETH NOT IN THE ABUNDANCE OF THE THINGS HE POSSESSES. MOST FOLKS IN OUR WORLD TODAY, IF YOU WERE TO ASK THEM, WHAT MAKES A PERSON, WHAT MAKES A MAN OR A WOMAN, THEY WOULD SAY YOU KNOW WHAT? IF YOU LOOK AT ALL THEY HAVE AND ALL THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND THEIR POWER, ET CETERA, THAT'S WHAT'S MADE THEM WHAT THEY ARE. AND YET WHAT JESUS IS SAYING IS, LOOK, WHAT YOU ACCUMULATE HERE, THAT DOESN'T REALLY MEAN THAT YOU'RE WHAT YOU OUGHT TO BE. AND SOMETIMES THE FOCUS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE PARABLE THAT HE TOLD ABOUT THE RICH FARMER, HIS MISCONCEPTION IN THINKING THAT YOU KNOW WHAT, LIFE IS ALL ABOUT THE HERE AND NOW. I FIND IT INTERESTING IN THE PARABLE THAT JESUS USED IN LUKE 12:16 AND FOLLOWING. SIX TIMES THE FARMER USED THE PERSONAL PRONOUN I. FOUR TIMES, MY. THE EMPHASIS OF HIS LIFE WAS HIMSELF.

>> ABSOLUTELY. HE WAS FOCUSED ON HIMSELF AND THINGS THAT ARE SO TEMPORARY. PSALM 39, MUCH LIKE PSALM 49, DEALS WITH SOME OF THIS. DAVID SAYS IN THIS PSALM IN VERSE 4, LORD, MAKE ME TO KNOW MINE END, THE MEASURE OF MY DAYS, WHAT IT IS, HOW FRAIL I AM. AND THEN HE SAYS, YOU'VE MADE MY DAYS AS A HANDBREADTH, ABOUT THE BREADTH OF THE HAND FROM ONE FINGER TO THE OTHER. IT'S NOT THAT BIG OF A SPAN. AND YET HE SAYS, MAN IN HIS BEST STATE IS ALTOGETHER BUT A VAPOR, A BREATH. BROTHER JAMES WATKINS THAT YOU AND I BOTH LOVE AND APPRECIATE FOR HIS GOSPEL PREACHING EFFORTS ALL THESE YEARS USED TO SAY THAT HE WAS A DIRT BAG WITH A TIE ON, BECAUSE HE WAS MADE FROM THE DUST OF THE EARTH, MAN HAS BEEN. AND THEN YOU NOTICE PSALM 39:6, EVERY MAN WALKS IN A VAIN SHOW. THEY'RE DISQUIETED IN VAIN. AND THEN THIS STATEMENT, HE HEAPS UP RICHES, AND KNOWS NOT WHO SHALL GATHER THEM. AND SO WHY SPEND ALL OF HIS TIME ACCUMULATING MORE AND MORE AND MORE AND MORE AND MORE STUFF JUST TO LEAVE IT BEHIND? BECAUSE AS I READ ONE ARTICLE ASKED, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A HEARSE PULLING A U-HAUL? THE POINT BEING THE HEARSE DOESN'T PUT A U-HAUL ON THE BACK OF IT THAT HAS ALL OF YOUR EARTHLY POSSESSIONS IN IT AND TAKE THAT WITH YOU TO THE GRAVE. AND THOSE FEW HISTORICAL INSTANCES WHERE WE'VE READ OF QUEENS OR INDIVIDUALS, PHARAOHS OR INDIVIDUALS WHO DID FILL THEIR TOMBS WITH ALL THESE TREASURES, PEOPLE ARE GOING IN THERE AND LOOTING THOSE TREASURES. THEY'RE CERTAINLY NOT DOING THE PEOPLE THAT LIVED THERE, THAT DIED THERE ANY GOOD.

>> YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT. B.J., IN 1 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 6, PAUL SAID GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT IS GREAT GAIN. IF YOU WERE TO ASK PROBABLY A HUNDRED PEOPLE ON THE STREET, ARE YOU CONTENT IN LIFE, I WOULD IMAGINE THREE QUARTERS OF THOSE PEOPLE WOULD SAY NO. AND MOST PEOPLE WOULD SAY THEY'RE NOT CONTENT, HAPPY, SATISFIED WITH LIFE BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY DON'T HAVE. AND YET WHAT PAUL SAID IS, LOOK, THERE IS ANOTHER DIMENSION TO LIFE THAT BRINGS CONTENTMENT AND HAPPINESS THAT'S NOT DICTATED BY, QUOTE, UNQUOTE, EXTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE THINGS OF LIFE. AND DON'T YOU THINK THAT ONE OF THE TOOLS OF THE DEVIL IS TO GET PEOPLE TO THINK YOU KNOW WHAT, THIS LIFE THAT I'M LIVING, IT'S ALL ABOUT WHAT I CAN GET AND WHAT I CAN ACCUMULATE. AND YET PAUL SIMPLY SAYS, LOOK, GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT IS GREAT GAIN. WE BROUGHT NOTHING INTO THIS WORLD, AS YOU SAID A MOMENT AGO, AND HE SAID, IT IS CERTAIN WE CAN CARRY NOTHING OUT. AND THEN I LOVE THIS, AND HAVING FOOD AND CLOTHING, WITH THESE WE SHALL BE CONTENT. OVER IN PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 4 PAUL SAID, I HAVE LEARNED IN WHATEVER STATE I'M IN, THEREIN TO BE CONTENT. TWO TIMES IN TWO VERSES PAUL USES THE WORD LEARNED. DON'T YOU THINK THAT CONTENTMENT IS A LEARNED RESPONSE TO HOW WE'RE TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD?

>> JESUS TRIED TO EDUCATE THE MASSES WHO WERE FOLLOWING HIM FOR THE LOAVES AND THE FISHES ABOUT THIS VERY THING IN JOHN CHAPTER 6. HE SAYS, LABOR NOT FOR THE MEAT WHICH PERISHES, BUT FOR THAT WHICH ENDURETH UNTO EVERLASTING LIFE. AND SO THE POINT IS THAT WE CAN GET SO FOCUSED ON THINGS THAT ARE PERISHABLE THAT WE FORGET THE THINGS THAT ARE ABOVE. AND THAT'S WHAT PAUL IN COLOSSIANS 3 SAID, SET YOUR AFFECTION ON THINGS ABOVE, WHERE CHRIST IS, NOT ON THINGS ON THE EARTH. THINGS ON THE EARTH ARE SO TEMPORARY THAT PETER WOULD ASK THIS QUESTION OR MAKE THIS STATEMENT, ACTUALLY. AFTER NOTING IN 2 PETER 3:10, THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME. AND WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN WHEN IT COMES? THE ELEMENTS SHALL MELT WITH FERVENT HEAT, THE EARTH AND THE WORKS THAT ARE THEREIN SHALL BE BURNED UP. AND YOU THINK ABOUT THEN THIS QUESTION, SEEING THEN THAT ALL

THESE THINGS SHALL BE DISSOLVED, WHAT MANNER OF PERSONS OUGHT YOU TO BE IN HOLY CONVERSATION AND GODLINESS? PETER SAYS, LOOK, IT'S ALL GOING TO BURN, SO WHY ARE YOU PUTTING YOUR TRUST AND HOPE IN THINGS THAT ARE GOING TO BURN WHEN YOU OUGHT TO BE LAYING UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN?

>> WELL, DIDN'T JESUS ASK THE QUESTION, WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A MAN IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL? WHAT SHALL A MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SOUL? NOTHING IN THIS WORLD IS WORTH THE LOSS OF OUR SOUL. IN 1 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 6 PAUL DISCUSSES THE DANGER OF HAVING THIS MENTALITY OF WANTING MORE AND MORE. HE SAID, THOSE WHO DESIRE TO BE RICH FALL INTO TEMPTATION AND A SNARE AND INTO MANY FOOLISH AND HARMFUL LUSTS WHICH DROWN MEN IN DESTRUCTION AND PERDITION. PAUL IS WRITING TO TIMOTHY HERE. TIMOTHY IS A CHILD OF GOD. AND HE'S SAYING LOOK, YOU NEED TO BE CAREFUL. IN VERSE 10, THE LOVE OF MONEY IS A ROOT OF ALL KINDS OF EVIL FOR WHICH SOME HAVE STRAYED FROM THE FAITH IN THEIR GREEDINESS, AND HE SAID, PIERCED THEMSELVES THROUGH WITH MANY SORROWS. AND THEN LOOK AT THE EMPHASIS. BUT YOU, OH MAN OF GOD, TALKING TO TIMOTHY, FLEE THESE THINGS. IS THERE A TENDENCY ON THE PART OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY TO ACCENTUATE THE HERE AND NOW, THE THINGS OF THE WORLD? ABSOLUTELY. WHAT ABOUT CHRISTIANS? YES. BUT HE SAID, YOU FLEE THESE THINGS, AND HERE'S WHAT YOU DO: YOU FOLLOW AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS, GODLINESS, FAITH, LOVE, PATIENCE AND MEEKNESS. THOSE ARE QUALITIES THAT ARE SPIRITUAL IN NATURE, B.J., NOT MATERIAL.

>> THAT'S RIGHT. AND SOLOMON WARNED US. AND HE WAS A RICH, RICH MAN. HE WARNED EVERYONE, VERSE 4 OF PROVERBS 23, LABOR NOT TO BE RICH, CEASE FROM THINE OWN WISDOM. WILT THOU SET THINE EYES UPON THAT WHICH IS NOT? AND THEN HE EXPRESSED, RICHES CERTAINLY MAKE THEMSELVES WINGS. THEY FLY AWAY AS AN EAGLE TOWARD HEAVEN. AND IT'S INTERESTING, SOMEONE NOTED THAT ON THE BACK OF THE DOLLAR BILL YOU CAN SEE SOME WINGS THERE. THAT SHOULD REMIND ALL OF US OF WHAT SOLOMON SAID. YOU GET ENOUGH OF THESE DOLLARS, AND YOU THINK A MILLION OF THESE DOLLARS WOULD MAKE ME A HAPPY, HAPPY MAN AND A SUCCESSFUL, SUCCESSFUL MAN. SOLOMON SAYS YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL. THOSE RICHES CAN MAKE WINGS AND FLY AWAY AS QUICKLY AS THEY CAME INTO YOUR LIFE.

>> B.J., YOU TRIGGERED A THOUGHT IN MY MIND, BECAUSE JESUS HAD SAID THAT WE'RE TO LAY UP FOR OURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN.

>> RIGHT.

>> AND I THINK THE QUESTION COULD BE ASKED, WHERE ARE WE BANKING? ON EARTH OR IN HEAVEN? NOW, DO WE USE A BANK TODAY? YES. BUT ULTIMATELY WE'RE TRYING TO LAY UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN. SOMEBODY SAYS, WELL, HOW DO I DO THAT? IN 1 TIMOTHY 6:17 PAUL SAID, COMMAND THOSE WHO ARE RICH IN THIS PRESENT AGE NOT TO BE HAUGHTY. DON'T THINK YOU'RE SOMETHING AND GET TOO FULL OF YOURSELF. AND A LOT OF PEOPLE BECOME ARROGANT AND THEY BECOME POWER HUNGRY. HE SAID, NOR TO TRUST, AND THIS IS WHAT YOU SAID, IN UNCERTAIN RICHES. WHY? BECAUSE THEY CAN FLY AWAY. BUT IN THE LIVING GOD WHO GIVES US RICHLY ALL THINGS TO ENJOY. OKAY. SO HOW THEN CAN I LAY UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN? HE TELLS US. LET THEM DO GOOD, THAT THEY MAY BE RICH IN WHAT? IN GOOD WORKS. READY TO GIVE, WILLING TO SHARE, STORING UP FOR THEMSELVES A GOOD FOUNDATION FOR THE TIME TO COME, THAT THEY MAY LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE. PROBABLY ONE OF THE BEST EXAMPLES I

CAN THINK OF THIS, THE LATE A.M. BURTON. BROTHER BURTON WAS A TREMENDOUS BENEFACTOR TO A LOT OF DIFFERENT CAUSES. AS A MATTER OF FACT, I THINK HE WAS VERY, VERY SUPPORTIVE OF THE WORKS OF MARSHALL KEEBLE. BROTHER KEEBLE BAPTIZED, ESTIMATES RANGE ANYWHERE FROM 30 TO 50 THOUSAND PEOPLE, HAD A PART IN STARTING SOME 325 CONGREGATIONS OR SO. AND BROTHER BURTON SUPPORTED HIM. AND NOT JUST BROTHER KEEBLE, BUT OTHER GREAT WORKS. AND MY UNDERSTANDING IS AT ONE TIME BROTHER BURTON WAS GIVING AWAY 90 PERCENT OF EVERYTHING HE MADE. NOW, I DON'T KNOW MANY PEOPLE THAT HAVE DONE THAT. THERE MAY BE, I JUST DON'T KNOW ABOUT THEM. BUT I KNOW ONE THING, BROTHER BURTON WAS CONCERNED ABOUT LAYING UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN. AND I THINK THAT'S WHAT PAUL IS TALKING ABOUT HERE.

>> I'M GLAD YOU MADE THAT POINT, BECAUSE WE'RE NOT SUGGESTING THAT IT IS INHERENTLY SINFUL TO BE RICH IN WEALTH; BECAUSE ABRAM ACCORDING TO GENESIS CHAPTER 13, THE BIBLE SAYS IN VERSE 2, HE WAS VERY RICH IN CATTLE, IN SILVER, AND IN GOLD. AND YET MOST OF ALL, IN FAITH. HE WAS RICH IN FAITH AND SOMEONE THAT KEPT THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE. AND I'M GLAD THAT THERE ARE FOLKS WHO'VE BEEN BLESSED BY GOD.

>> ABSOLUTELY.

>> BECAUSE THEY ARE ABLE TO SUPPORT GOOD WORKS AND THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. AND WE CERTAINLY ARE GRATEFUL THAT GOD HAS BLESSED US WITH VARIOUS DEGREES OF HEALTH AND WEALTH. BUT WE WOULD NEVER WANT OUR VIEWERS TO THINK THAT THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT, THAT IT'S A MEANS TO AN END. IT'S REALLY NOT THE END OF WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH.

>> I THINK THAT'S RIGHT. B.J., WE HAVE KNOWN OF PEOPLE WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST THAT HAVE BEEN BLESSED IMMEASURABLY. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THIS PROGRAM IS THE RESULT OF PEOPLE THAT HAVE BEEN BLESSED MATERIALLY AND HAVE SOUGHT TO UNDERWRITE THIS PROGRAM. AND SO WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR THAT. BUT I THINK SOMETIMES PEOPLE GET SO CAUGHT UP IN THE ACCUMULATION OF THINGS THAT THEY TAKE THEIR FOCUS OFF OF GOD. YOU MENTIONED ABRAHAM. ABRAHAM WAS RICH IN FAITH. HE'S LISTED AMONG THOSE WHO WERE OF GREAT FAITH IN HEBREWS CHAPTER 11. AND WE CAN EMULATE THE SAME. B.J., WHAT ABOUT THE CHURCH? SOMETIMES PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH GET CAUGHT UP IN TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH THE JONES. AND QUITE FRANKLY, THE WORLD HAS MADE INROADS INTO THE LIVES OF A LOT OF FOLKS IN THE CHURCH. AND SO HOW DO YOU COUNTER PEOPLE WHO ARE IN THE CHURCH, HOW DO YOU COUNTER THIS ATTITUDE THAT THEY'RE SO CONSUMED WITH WHAT THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER THAT THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT PUTTING JESUS FIRST, THEY'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT LAYING UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN?

>> WELL, WE'VE MENTIONED THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER MORE THAN ONCE ON THIS BROADCAST OVER THE YEARS THAT WE'VE BEEN DOING IT. AND MARK CHAPTER 4 COMES TO MIND BECAUSE THERE ARE SOME INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL RECEIVE THE SEED, AND THEY WILL BE LIKE THOSE WHO WERE SOWN AMONG THORNS. THEY HEAR THE WORD. AND MARK 4:19, THE CARES OF THIS WORLD AND THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES. AND IT IS DECEITFUL. IT LURES YOU AND ME INTO BELIEVING I'VE GOT SOMETHING YOU NEED THAT GOD CAN'T GIVE YOU. ISN'T THAT THE FIRST THING THAT SATAN TRIED IN THE GARDEN? THERE'S SOMETHING THAT YOU COULD HAVE THAT GOD WON'T LET YOU HAVE. IT'S IN THAT PIECE OF FRUIT RIGHT THERE. AND TRIED TO ALLURE EVE INTO PARTAKING OF THAT ON THE BASIS THAT GOD'S TRYING TO HOLD OUT ON YOU WHAT WOULD REALLY MAKE YOU HAPPY. RICHES

PROMISE US SO MUCH, AND THEY GIVE US SO LITTLE. HE MENTIONS THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES, MARK 4:19, THE LUSTS OF OTHER THINGS ENTERING IN. THAT HAS A TENDENCY TO CHOKER THE WORD, AND IT BECOMES UNFRUITFUL. BUT THEN ON THE GOOD GROUND, YOU'LL NOTICE THEY HEAR THE WORD, VERSE 20, AND THEY RECEIVE IT AND BRING FORTH FRUIT, SOME THIRTY FOLD, SOME SIXTY, SOME A HUNDRED. AND THEIR FAITH IS WHAT'S BLOSSOMING AND GROWING AND BLOOMING HERE, AND THAT IS CONTRARY TO THE PEOPLE THAT ARE FOCUSED SOLELY ON THE HERE AND THE NOW. THE EARLY CHURCH, IF THEY HAD BEEN BLESSED AND THEY SAW OTHERS IN NEED, ACCORDING TO ACTS CHAPTER 2, ACTS 4:32, THEY SHARED WHAT THEY HAD WITH OTHERS WHO DIDN'T HAVE, AND THEY WERE, AS YOU ALREADY NOTED FROM 1 TIMOTHY 6, READY TO DISTRIBUTE THAT WHICH THEY'D RECEIVED TO HELP OTHERS.

>> WELL, EVEN SOME OUT OF THEIR IMPOVERISHED MEANS WERE STILL WILLING TO GIVE BASED ON 2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 8. PAUL TALKS ABOUT IN 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1, HE SAID, MOREOVER BRETHREN WE MAKE KNOWN TO YOU THE GRACE OF GOD BESTOWED ON THE CHURCHES OF MACEDONIA, THAT IN A GREAT TRIAL OF AFFLICTION, THE ABUNDANCE OF THEIR JOY AND THEIR DEEP POVERTY ABOUNDED IN THE RICHES OF THEIR LIBERALITY. AND YOU THINK ABOUT SOME THAT HAVE MADE GREAT SACRIFICES TO FURTHER THE CAUSE OF CHRIST MONETARILY. AND AGAIN, THE GOAL, LAY UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN.

>> WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN IF MORE PEOPLE WOULD FOCUS ON THOSE TREASURES IN HEAVEN? YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT A DIFFERENT WORLD THIS WOULD BE. THE FOCUS WOULD NOT BE ON THE HERE AND THE NOW. IT WOULD BE ON THE THERE AND THE THEN. AND SOMEONE WISELY WROTE, WHERE YOU GO HEREAFTER DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU GO AFTER HERE. AND IF YOU GET PEOPLE TO FOCUS ON EARTHLY THINGS, THEY'RE GOING TO FIND THEMSELVES SORELY DISAPPOINTED ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT.

>> B.J., I THINK BACK TO WHEN WE WERE KIDS, AND I GREW UP IN A HOME OF LITTLE MEANS. MY DAD WAS A SCHOOL TEACHER. MY MOTHER WORKED BECAUSE SHE NOT WORKED, WE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD ENOUGH TO MAKE IT WEEK TO WEEK. AND WE LIVED IN PROBABLY AN 1100 SQUARE FOOT HOME, THREE BEDROOMS, ONE BATH, ONE CAR GARAGE, BUT WE MADE IT. AND WE DIDN'T HAVE A LOT. AND I LOOK AT OUR CULTURE TODAY. VERY FEW PEOPLE LIVE IN THE SIZE HOME THAT I GREW UP IN. AND I'M NOT BEMOANING THAT. BUT I LOOK AROUND, AND I SEE THE WEALTH THAT WE HAVE IN THIS COUNTRY AND THE FACT THAT WE'VE GOT LARGE HOMES AND WE'RE MAKING MORE MONEY THAN WE'VE EVER MADE AND WE'VE GOT AUTOMOBILES, OUR CHILDREN HAVE AUTOMOBILES, AND WE SPEND MONEY LIKE WATER. AND WE HAVE ALL OF THESE THINGS, BUT WE DON'T REALLY HAVE WHAT'S IMPORTANT. AND THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY, THEY HAVE EVERYTHING, BUT THEY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING. AND THEY'VE BOUGHT INTO THIS IDEA THAT YOU KNOW WHAT, IF I COULD JUST GET A LITTLE BIT MORE, IF I COULD GET THIS PROMOTION, IF I COULD GET THIS OR THAT OR WHATEVER, THEN THAT'S GOING TO MAKE ME HAPPY. BUT YOU LOOK AT PAUL, AND PAUL SAID LOOK, I'VE LEARNED TO BE HAPPY IF I'VE GOT A LOT, IF I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING, IF I'M HUNGRY. WHATEVER THE CASE, I'VE LEARNED TO BE HAPPY. AND I DON'T THINK WE'RE THERE.

>> WE'VE GOT TO REDEFINE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE SUCCESSFUL. I KNOW A REAL ESTATE AGENT TOLD ME ONE TIME, SHE SAID, YOU WOULD NOT BELIEVE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT ARE LIVING INSIDE OF BEAUTIFUL HOMES ON CARDBOARD TABLES. BECAUSE AS LONG AS THEY CAN HAVE THE EXTERIOR VIEW THAT, HEY, THAT PERSON

HAS MADE IT, SHE SAID, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW MANY FOLKS ARE LIVING INSIDE.

>> YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU JUST TRIGGERED A THOUGHT. BACK YEARS AGO, I'D JUST GOTTEN OUT OF COLLEGE, AND I WAS WORKING AT A PLACE, AND THERE WAS A FELLOW THAT KIND OF TOOK ME UNDER HIS WING AND WAS VERY, VERY HELPFUL TO ME. AND HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CITY OF NASHVILLE. HE SAID, YOU JUST WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT ARE LIVING IN, AS YOU SAID A MOMENT AGO, THESE FABULOUS HOMES. HE SAID, YOU JUST WOULDN'T BELIEVE, LOOKED LIKE A CASTLE. HE SAID, BUT IF YOU GO IN, HE SAID, THERE'S NO FURNITURE IN THERE.

>> RIGHT.

>> AND HE SAID, AND MANY OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE LIVING, HE SAID, IF THEY WERE TO HAVE ONE CATASTROPHIC EVENT, HE SAID THEY WOULD LOSE EVERYTHING. AND SO YOU COME BACK AND YOU ASK THE QUESTION, WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO LIVE LIKE THAT?

>> AND THE CATASTROPHIC EVENT OF ALL EVENTS THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ALL OF US IF THE LORD LINGERS IS DEATH. AND J. PIERPONT MORGAN WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST FINANCIERS THAT WALL STREET EVER KNEW MANY, MANY DECADES AGO. AS BUSINESS MEN WERE WALKING BY HIS REMAINS, ONE OF THEM POKED HIS BUDDY AND SAID, RECKON HOW MUCH HE LEFT BEHIND? AND HIS BUDDY SAID, HE LEFT IT ALL BEHIND. WELL, THE OTHER GUY WAS LOOKING FOR A NUMBER, A FIGURE, A DOLLAR AMOUNT, BUT THIS GUY SAID CORRECTLY HE LEFT IT ALL BEHIND. AND WHAT'S 1 TIMOTHY 6:7 SAY? WE BROUGHT NOTHING INTO THIS WORLD; IT'S CERTAIN WE CAN CARRY NOTHING OUT. SOLOMON SAYS LET ME GIVE YOU THE MEMO ON THIS, ECCLESIASTES 5:15. AS A MAN DIES, THAT'S THE WAY HE'S GOING TO LEAVE, EMPTY HANDED. HE TAKES AWAY NOTHING IN HIS HAND.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> AND WHEN WE WERE BORN INTO THIS WORLD, WE WEREN'T BORN WEARING A GOLD ROLEX WATCH, AND WHEN WE DIE, WE'RE NOT GOING TO LEAVE THIS WORLD WITH ANYTHING. EVEN IF WE HAD A GOLD ROLEX WATCH ON OUR WRIST, WHEN THEY CLOSE THE LID ON OUR COFFIN, FOR WHAT GOOD WOULD THAT DO US? NOTHING.

>> YOU KNOW, B.J., MANY OF US HAVE, I'M SURE YOU AS WELL AS I, HAVE STOOD AT THE SIDE OF AN OPEN COFFIN, AND THE TIME HAS COME TO BID GOODBYE, AND THEY'RE ABOUT TO CLOSE THE LID, AND I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MANY TIMES THE DECEASED HAS BEEN WEARING JEWELRY. AND THERE ARE MANY OCCASIONS WHEN THE UNDERTAKER WILL BEGIN TO REMOVE THAT JEWELRY AND THE FINE THINGS. WELL, WHY? BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT THAT PERSON CAN'T USE THEM ANYMORE. I DO KNOW OF A FRIEND OF MINE THAT SAID THAT HER FATHER WORKED FOR ELVIS, AND SHE SAID THAT WHEN HE WAS WORKING FOR ELVIS, ELVIS GAVE HIM A GOLD WATCH. AND I COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT SHE SAID, BUT WHEN HE DIED, SHE SAID YOU KNOW WHAT? THAT WATCH WAS A PART OF HIM. WE BURIED IT WITH HIM. AND I THOUGHT, WHY WOULD YOU BURY A GOLD WATCH, YOU KNOW? BUT THAT'S WHAT THEY CHOSE TO DO. BUT NONETHELESS, IT'S NEVER GOING TO BE USED.

>> NO.

>> IT POSES NO MONETARY VALUE TO THE DECEASED.

>> I PREACHED A FUNERAL, AND WHEN THE FAMILY FILED BY THE CASKET FOR THE LAST TIME, THEY ALL DEPOSITED TWO BRAND-NEW ONE DOLLAR BILLS IN THE CASKET. THE REASON, WHEN THEIR LOVED ONE WAS STILL ALIVE AND SICK IN THE HOSPITAL, HE SAID TO THEM EVERY NIGHT BEFORE THEY'D GO HOME, CHECK MY SOCK. HE SAID, NOW YOU GO HOME AND GET SOME GOOD REST. I'M NOT LETTING YOU STAY UP HERE AT THIS HOSPITAL. BUT YOU LEAVE AND CHECK MY SOCK, AND MAKE SURE YOU HAVE TWO DOLLARS TUCKED IN THERE, BECAUSE IF I GET DISCHARGED BEFORE YOU GET BACK HERE, I WANT ENOUGH MONEY ON ME TO BUY A CUP OF COFFEE AND A NEWSPAPER. WHICH SHOWS YOU HOW LONG AGO THIS WAS TOO, BY THE WAY. CUP OF COFFEE AND A NEWSPAPER. SO REMEMBERING THIS QUIRK ABOUT HIM, THEY ALL PUT THE TWO DOLLAR BILLS IN THERE, THEY CLOSED THE LID. THE MONEY'S STILL THERE. OF COURSE THEY KNEW HE COULDN'T USE IT. IT WAS SYMBOLIC. AND FAMILIES HAVE A RIGHT TO GRIEVE THE WAY THEY WANT TO GRIEVE. BUT THE POINT IS, WHAT IF THEY PUT TWO MILLION DOLLARS IN THERE? WOULD THAT HAVE CHANGED ONE IOTA THE CIRCUMSTANCE OF HIS LIFE? THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO GET PEOPLE TO SEE IS TO BUILD YOUR HOPES ON THINGS ETERNAL. HOLD TO GOD'S UNCHANGING HAND, BECAUSE THIS TIME IS FILLED WITH SWIFT TRANSITION, AS THE SONG SAYS. AND SO WHAT WE NEED IS TO CLING TO SOMETHING THAT'S PERMANENT, THAT LASTS, THAT'S GOT SOMETHING TO IT.

>> AND AS YOU NOTED A MOMENT AGO, THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE IS EVER CHANGING, AND DEATH COULD COME AT ANY TIME, AND SO WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED. B.J., I KNOW THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF FOLKS TODAY THAT GIVE LITTLE OR NO CONCERN TO THEIR SOUL, AND YET JESUS WOULD SAY TO US THAT THE SOUL IS WORTH MORE THAN EVERYTHING. AND SO HOW DO YOU COUNTER THIS MATERIALISTIC HERE AND NOW ATTITUDE FOR THINGS ETERNAL AND TO GET PEOPLE TO SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF INVESTING IN THE FUTURE? AND WHEN I SAY INVESTING IN THE FUTURE, I MEAN INVESTING IN ETERNITY.

>> RIGHT. THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS TO APPEAL TO THEIR REASON AND TO SAY BASED ON SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES THAT WE'VE BEEN BRINGING OUT IN THIS PROGRAM, LOOK, CAN YOU POINT ME TO THE MAN, PSALM 89:48 ASKS THIS: WHAT MAN IS THERE THAT SHALL LIVE AND NOT SEE DEATH? AND THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUSLY RHETORICAL. THERE ISN'T A MAN THAT WILL LIVE AND NOT SEE DEATH. SO THEREFORE, SINCE IT'S APPOINTED UNTO MEN ONCE TO DIE AND AFTER THIS, WHAT? A BIG PARTY TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE YOU LIVED? WELL, NOT IN AN EARTHLY SENSE. BUT HEBREWS 9:27 SAYS, AFTER THIS COMES THE JUDGMENT. WE'VE GOT TO GET PEOPLE TO SEE THIS LIFE AS A DRESSING ROOM FOR ETERNITY. AND WE'RE NOT HERE TO ACCUMULATE AS MUCH STUFF AS WE CAN GET AND GET SO MUCH STUFF THAT WE HAVE TO RENT STORAGE FACILITIES TO STORE THE STUFF WE CAN'T FIT INTO OUR LARGE HOUSES, BECAUSE ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT ALL OF OUR STUFF, NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT IS, IS GOING TO BURN, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT GOD TOLD US. NO ONE'S EVER REPENTED ON THEIR DEATHBED OF WISHING THEY'D SPENT MORE TIME AT THE OFFICE. WHAT I MEAN TO SAY IS NO ONE ON THEIR DEATHBED HAS EVER SAID, I WISH I'D SPENT MORE TIME AT THE OFFICE. THEY HAVE REPENTED OF SUCH AN ATTITUDE, PERHAPS, AND THOUGHT, I WISH I'D SPENT MORE TIME DEVELOPING MY SPIRITUAL SIDE, BECAUSE I'M DYING. AND NOW WHAT? WHAT'S NEXT FOR ME? WHERE AM I GOING? I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE THAT I'M READY. AND WITH A CHRISTIAN, YOU CAN DIE THE POOREST MAN IN THE COMMUNITY MONETARILY SPEAKING, AND YET THE RICHEST MAN.

>> WE BEGAN THE PROGRAM, LUKE 16, THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS. THE RICH MAN LEFT BEHIND A LOT. MATTER OF FACT, JESUS SAID IN THAT NARRATION, SON, REMEMBER THAT THOU IN THY LIFETIME RECEIVED GOOD THINGS. WELL, LAZARUS HAD A TOUGH LIFE, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? HE HAD A GOOD LIFE WHEN HE LEFT THIS LIFE. AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE AFTER. B.J., WHAT WOULD A PERSON NEED TO DO TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD, TO LIVE IN HEAVEN FOREVER ONE DAY?

>> HE THAT COMETH TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS, HEBREWS 11:6. THAT FAITH NEEDS TO BE IN THEIR HEART THAT JESUS IS WHO HE CLAIMED TO BE, THE SON OF GOD. HE SAID THAT HE IS THE ONE THAT IF PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE IN HIM, THEY'LL DIE IN THEIR SINS, JOHN 8:24. AND THEN AS A PENITENT, CONFESSING BELIEVER, SOMEONE WHO REPENTS, BECAUSE ALL MEN EVERYWHERE ARE COMMANDED TO REPENT, ACTS 17:30, AND THE GOODNESS OF GOD OUGHT TO LEAD US TO REPENTANCE, ROMANS 2:4. AND IF WE HAVE THAT PENITENT ATTITUDE AND WE BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD, WHY WOULDN'T WE CONFESS IT, TO THE GLORY OF GOD, PHILIPPIANS 2:9 AND FOLLOWING. AND THEN HAVING CONFESSED HIM, WHAT WOULD WE DO NEXT? WELL, WHAT DID THE EUNUCH DO AFTER CONFESSING JESUS CHRIST WAS THE SON OF GOD? HE WENT DOWN INTO THE WATER, HE CAME UP OUT OF THE WATER, AND THEN HE WENT ON HIS WAY REJOICING BECAUSE THAT'S WHEN HIS SINS HAD BEEN WASHED AWAY BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST. AND HE WAS ADDED TO THE CHURCH THAT BELONGS TO CHRIST.

>> AND THE BEAUTY OF IT IS IF WE ARE FAITHFUL UNTIL DEATH, THE PROMISE IS A CROWN OF LIFE, REVELATION 2:10 AND THAT IS THE STEPHANOS, THE VICTOR'S CROWN. AND ONE DAY WE CAN HEAR THOSE WORDS, WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.

>> AMEN.

>> AND THAT'S WHAT WE LONG FOR.

>> AMEN.

>> B.J., SO GOOD TO BE WITH YOU. THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US. HOPE TO SEE YOU RIGHT BACK HERE AGAIN NEXT WEEK. UNTIL THEN, GOD BLESS.

>> WE SHALL RISE, HALLELUJAH, WE SHALL RISE.