



Sermon Notes

January 27, 2008

Tim Strickland

Where Your Treasure Is... #4
Righteousness & Treasure
Various Passages

Proverbs 3:33

*The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked,
but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous.*

Proverbs 11:4

*Riches do not profit in the day of wrath,
but righteousness delivers from death.*

Proverbs 11:18

*The wicked earns deceptive wages,
but one who sows righteousness gets a sure reward.*

Proverbs 11:30-31

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
and whoever captures souls is wise.*

³¹ *If the righteous is repaid on earth,
how much more the wicked and the sinner!*

Proverbs 11:11

*By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted,
but by the mouth of the wicked it is overthrown.*

Proverbs 14:34

*Righteousness exalts a nation,
but sin is a reproach to any people.*

Introduction

Today: "Righteousness & Treasure"

- Message #4 in "Where Your Treasure Is", a series about God, money & you

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1. The Righteous & the Wicked

a. Who are "the righteous"?

- **Psalm 37:30-31, 39** (see also Psalm 1:1-6)

³⁰ *The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,
and his tongue speaks justice.*

³¹ *The law of his God is in his heart;
his steps do not slip.*

³⁹ *The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;
he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.*

b. Who are "the wicked"?

- **Ps. 10:3-4** *For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul,
and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the Lord.*

⁴ *In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him;
all his thoughts are, "There is no God."*

¹¹ *He says in his heart, "God has forgotten,
he has hidden his face, he will never see it."*

- **Mark 7:20-23** *And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. [21] For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, [22] coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. [23] All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."*

2. Blessings & Curses

a. Blessings will come to the righteous and curses to the wicked

- **Prov. 3:33** *The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked,
but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous.*

- see also Prov. 10:3,22,24,30, 12:7, 14:11, 15:6, 28:13-14,25

b. The righteous bring blessings & the wicked bring curses on a nation

- **Prov. 11:11** *By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted,
but by the mouth of the wicked it is overthrown.*

- **Proverbs 14:34** *Righteousness exalts a nation,
but sin is a reproach to any people.*

- see also Isaiah 26:1-4, esp. v2

c. How do these blessings and curses come?

- Through God's supernatural means
- Through God's laws of harvest: You reap what you sow

3. You Reap What You Sow

Galatians 6:7 *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.*

Isaiah 3:10-11

*Tell the righteous that it shall be well with them,
for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds.*

¹¹ *Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him,*

for what his hands have dealt out shall be done to him.

Question: If the verses in today's message are true...

- Why do the righteous so often seem to suffer?
- Why do the wicked so often seem to prosper?

Eccles. 8:14 *There is a vanity that takes place on earth,
that there are righteous people to whom it happens
according to the deeds of the wicked, and there are
wicked people to whom it happens according to the deeds
of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity.*

Answer: Wait! God will deliver justice in His good time.

- **Psalms 37:34** *Wait for the Lord and keep his way,
and he will exalt you to inherit the land;
you will look on when the wicked are cut off.*
- **Eccl. 3:17** *I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the
wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work.*
 - See also Ps. 37, 73, Jer. 12:1-4, Hab. 1:13-2:4, Mal. 3:13-4:6

4. How can I be counted among 'the righteous'?

a. How is a person made "righteous"?

- By trusting in Jesus Christ, God's Righteous One. (Is 53:11)

Habakkuk 2:4b *but the righteous shall live by his faith.*
(see also Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11)

• **Genesis 15:6** *And he believed the Lord, and he counted it
to him as righteousness.* (see also Rom. 4:9, 22, Gal. 3:5-9)

Isaiah 55:7 *let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

b. How does a person walk in righteousness?

Col. 2:6-7 *Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so
walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the
faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*

- Walk in the Lord
- Walk in His Word
- Walk in faith
- Walk in His Spirit
- Walk in fellowship with other believers

Our Response

1. Ask yourself: Am I counted among the righteous? Have I put my faith in Jesus Christ?

2. Know that you will reap what you sow. You must sow in righteousness if you want to reap God's blessings. (see Isaiah 3:10-11, Galatians 6:7)

3. Pursue Christ as your ultimate treasure! Walk in His righteousness!

Hebrews 12:1-2 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of
witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and
let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the
founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him
endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the
throne of God.*

Questions for Application

1. Who are 'the righteous'? Who are 'the wicked'? Refer to today's Scripture.
2. How is a person made righteous? How does a person walk in righteousness?
3. Galatians 6:7 says "for whatever one sows, that will he also reap." Discuss this verse as it relates to blessings and curses from the Lord.
4. Why does it often appear that the righteous are suffering and the wicked are prospering? Discuss God's answer to this question in Psalm 37:34-40.
5. Are you counted among the righteous? If you have not trusted in Jesus Christ, do so today! Are you walking in righteousness? Ask the Lord who saved you to work his righteousness in you, even as you trust and obey Him.
6. Pray together for strength from the Lord to make Him the greatest treasure in your life. Ask God for His wisdom and for the transformation of mind you need to treasure it. Pray for transformation in all of our lives as we learn God's wisdom about treasure in this series.

Questions, Comments? - inthebeginning@look.ca

If you have questions or comments about today's message, please drop me an email to the address above. Thanks,

Tim



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