

You Are Not Home Yet

Dr. Glenn Robertson

We are looking at Randy Alcorn's book, The Treasure Principle.

Matthew 6:20-21 NIVO

²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



Key #1: God owns everything.

Key #2: My heart always goes where I put God's money.

Today we will look at the next chapter which has three Key principles. We are looking at chapter 5, **Roadblocks to Giving**.

We know God has commanded us to give. So why is it so hard for us to give? There are many roadblocks to giving – unbelief, insecurity,

pride, idolatry... and more. Alcorn says he believes the greatest roadblock is the illusion that Earth is our home.



Key # 3: Heaven and the future New Earth, not this fallen Earth, is my home.

Where we store our treasures depends on where we think our home is. When you have to live somewhere for a temporary assignment, you don't try to make it exactly like home. You are willing to endure somethings not being just the way you like it because you know you are going home.

For example, let's say you are going to participate in an archaeological dig in Israel for three months. When you get there they assign you to an apartment which is set up for your basic needs. You have a bed, a bath, a small table with a lamp and a place to put your few clothes. If you are normal, you don't go out and start buying all new furniture, decorations for the walls, a large TV, and a large amount of clothing. It's not home, and you know when you go home, you will not be taking all of that with you. You are going to be working most of the time. So all you need are the basics. You are on temporary assignment. You are not home, yet, so it does not matter if you don't have everything you want. When you get home, you know it will be different.

That is the message of our faith. We are here on temporary assignment. We are not home yet.

Philippians 3:20-21 NIVO

²⁰ **But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,**
²¹ **who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.**

Paul wrote these words while waiting the outcome of his trial before Caesar. He knew it could go either way. He was ready to die for Christ if necessary. He was also as willing to continue to live for Christ, because he was living to serve Christ, not get his best life now.

Our citizenship is in heaven. Heaven is our home. Nothing we have on earth will ever satisfy our soul because the stuff of this world is not home. The Christian lives with an eye on heaven as our home with an expectation that nothing will make life what it needs to be until Jesus returns.

Notice, that includes what we do for our bodies. Getting our bodies in perfect shape is one of the idols of our day. Many are focused on a mental picture of what the perfect look will be when they finally get their abs and glutes in shape. "Have you got your six-pack abs?" We are driven by social constructs which have not real bearing on the eternal kingdom of God.

Notice what Paul says about getting our perfect bodies. It is Jesus who will transform our lowly bodies into glorious bodies. He will do so when He returns. Until then, exercise for health, but don't devote yourselves to worship ideals God has not given you.



Key # 4: I should live not for the dot but for the line.

The dot is life on earth.

The line is life in heaven.

When we live focused on life here and now, we are living for the dot instead of the line. We are living for a moment in our lives instead of the full existence, the eternal existence. It takes faith to believe we will have a life in eternity that will be lived more fully than life as we have it now. Yet, for many, the great purpose of their lives is to get as much of life lived fullest here and now. They are focused on the dot.

When was the last time you traveled to the dump? There you can discard your old TV, your old computer, and your old furniture, and so much more. At one time you sought these things and they brought you joy. Yet, a time came when they no longer satisfied you and you joined in the line of other people who take their possessions to the dump. When you are there, have you ever noticed how much stuff is dumped?

We have become a people enslaved to consumerism. Consumerism is a drive that leads us to believe we must have the latest and best stuff. We are always buying stuff. Then new stuff comes out, and we

discard our old stuff to get the latest new stuff. Have you ever seen photos of the piles of old technology? Our stuff piles up in endless and huge dumps. Sometimes you can see these dumps as you drive along highways. There it is, a large mountain is getting formed and covered in dirt and sealed in plastic so it won't leach out into the water table. We have tons of plastic that floats on the oceans. That plastic junk is becoming a problem. Consumerism has made us servants of the trash heap. If space aliens were to gaze down upon our existence they would conclude that the purpose of our lives is to build large mountains of junk.

Alcorn:

When we die after devoting our lives to acquiring things, we don't win – we lose. We move into eternity, but our stuff stays behind, filling junkyards.

The person who lives for the dot lives for treasures on earth that rot and rust. The person who lives for the line, lives for treasures in heaven that last forever.

Too often we think we own our possessions. In reality, our possessions often own us. They make great demands on our energy, time and money to keep them up.



Key # 5: Giving is the only antidote to materialism.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 NIV

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Giving is the antidote to the spiritual poison of desiring to make your best life here in this fallen world. Greed – the unending desire for getting more stuff is a sin condition of the heart. It is a flesh nature from which God is seeking release us.

When we give, we let go of some of our possessions. We release into God's hands, some of our earth-bound material stuff. We are not free from the enslavement to greed until we can release our grip on the possessions of the world.

If you are bit by a poisonous snake, you need the antidote for that poison. The snake from the Garden of Eden has been feeding us poison for a long time. Giving is one of God's antidotes. It is a soul-freeing response to loving the world.

How do you know if you are free of an addiction? The only way to know you are free is when you can walk away. The same is true of giving. If your soul is dependent on getting stuff to make you feel secure and happy, you are not free.

You are going to let go of your stuff sometime. The only question is when will you let go of it. Will it be when it is taken from you by others or by death, or will it be out of a choice so you may store up wealth in God's eternal kingdom?

Discover the freedom of giving.