

THE CHRISTIAN BUSINESS NETWORK

Practicing Christian Community in the Marketplace

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ChristianBusinessNetwork.com

The Role of Values in Lasting Success

Introduction:

A. Michael Chetelat's Personal Journey

- I have always been driven to achieve success
- I have always been driven to avoid failure
- I have observed people achieve great success, only to finish in great failure

B. Why should we even consider the topic of lasting success?

- Because all of us are supernaturally wired to want some measure of success
- Because all of us are supernaturally driven to achieve some measure of success
- Because all of us define and measure success theologically and circumstantially

Conclusion: A healthy desire for success can be a very powerful and motivating force!

C. Why should we care about having a healthy fear of failure?

Psalm 127:1-2 - Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat – for He grants sleep to those he loves.

Ecclesiastes 4:6 - Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.

Isaiah 49:4 - I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and futility; yet my vindication is with the Lord, and my reward is with my God.

Philippians 2:14-16 - Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

Conclusion: A healthy fear of failure can be a very powerful and motivating force!

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 - Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize... I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Professional Assessment Questions:

A. As a Christian business person, what do you want most and of what are you in pursuit?

- A successful career?
- An abundance of clients?
- A prolific ministry?
- A leisurely retirement?
- A lucrative salary?
- A profitable practice?
- A professional legacy?
- A measure of pleasure?

Question: What document is approximately 200 pages long, contains 4800 names, and is worth an estimated \$65 billion? **Answer:** Bernie Madoff's list of clients.

Question: What do Bernie Madoff and Michael Phelps have in common?

- They both knew what they wanted most in life
- They both set the course of their life to pursue their goals
- They both set historical records as a result of their achievements
- They both were willing to pay any price to "succeed"

Conclusion: All of us desire and pursue some measure of success in life and in business.

B. Why are we in pursuit of such measures of success?

- A successful career - *I want to succeed because I can't stand the thought of failing.*
- A lucrative salary - *I want to make all that I can in order to ... all that I can.*
- An abundance of clients - *I want more & more clients in order to grow the business.*
- A profitable practice - *I want to be profitable in order to stay in business.*
- A prolific ministry - *I want this work to have maximum impact upon people.*
- A professional legacy - *I want this business to outlast me for generations to come.*
- A leisurely retirement - *I want some leisure time to relax during my twilight years.*
- A measure of pleasure - *I want a little time to enjoy some of the pleasures of this life.*

Question: Is there anything inherently wrong or sinful about these desires and pursuits?

1 Corinthians 6:12 - All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

C. Why do we value what we hope to gain? Because ...

- My worth as a business person is directly tied to my proven ability to succeed in business.
- My worth as a provider is directly tied to my proven ability to generate sufficient income.

- My worth as a sales person is directly tied to my proven ability to grow my client base.
- My worth as a business person is directly tied to my proven ability to produce profit.
- My worth as a minister of the Gospel is directly tied to my proven ability to impact lives.
- My worth as a legal professional is directly tied to my proven ability to build a practice.
- My worth as a person is directly tied to my proven ability to enjoy some leisure time.
- My worth ... is directly tied to seizing life's treasures and enjoying life's pleasures.

"We strive for success, driving our minds and bodies harder and farther, hoping that because of our sweat and sacrifice, others will appreciate us more."

[Robert S. McGee - The Search for Significance]

D. What makes us think that such measures of success have any lasting value?

Mark 8:34-38 - When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

Mark 8:33 - But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Worldliness is not the trap that most endangers us as Christian workers; nor is it sin. The trap we fall into is extravagantly desiring spiritual success; that is, success measured by, and patterned after, the form set by this religious age in which we now live. Never seek after anything other than the approval of God. (My Utmost for His Highest - April 24th)

SUCCESS: Why should we consult the Bible as it pertains to this matter of lasting success?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man [or woman] of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Problem: There's a veil that exists which separates the things of God from the things of man which must be torn in two if we have any hope of achieving any measure of lasting success!

Hebrews 4:12-13 - For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account

If what we do professionally is not illegal, immoral or unethical, then it is a good work!

A Christian is quite foolish to think that God's Word has little to say to them about how they should perform their service to mankind! On the contrary, a Christian is quite wise to believe that God's Word has an enormous amount to say regarding how to pursue and achieve success!

SUCCESS: What does it mean and how do we apprehend it?

Principle: How we define and measure success will ultimately determine the means and methods we employ to achieve success.

Quotes on how the world defines success

- A. A Working Definition: Success is the pleasure and the approval of God gained through our faith and obedience.

Principle: SUCCESS is ultimately defined by who awards what rewards.

Quotes on how the world instructs us to apprehend success

- B. How does God's Word instruct us to apprehend success?

Hebrews 11:4-5 - By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By this he was approved as a righteous man, because God approved his gifts, and even though he is dead, he still speaks through this. By faith, Enoch was taken away so that he did not experience death, and he was not to be found because God took him away. For prior to his transformation he was approved, having pleased God.

Hebrews 11:6 - Now without faith it is impossible to please God, for the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him.

Hebrews 11:24-26 - By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter and chose to suffer with the people of God rather than to enjoy the short-lived pleasure of sin. For he considered reproach for the sake of the Messiah to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, since his attention was on the reward.

Hebrews 11:39 - All these were approved through their faith.

Luke 16:10-13 - [Jesus said] Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

Matthew 25:14... - The Kingdom of heaven is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability... The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you

entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Holman Bible Commentary: "Originally a talent was a unit of weight. However, it was also used as the highest denomination of coinage. It would take a laborer almost 20 years to earn the equivalent of one talent." Approximately \$1,000,000!

C. How did Jesus Christ personify success?

John 17:4 - I glorified You on the earth having [successfully] accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.

Matthew 17:5 - While Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased".

D. How did the Apostle Paul exemplify success?

2 Timothy 4:6-8 - For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

LASTING SUCCESS: Is it God's desire for us to pursue some measure of lasting success?

Illustration: YouTube video on Michael Jordan's perspective on success and failure.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 - Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

"I do the very best I know how—the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so."

This person's life is the best example of his own words. Consider the chronology of his career:

1831 - Failed in business

1832 - Defeated for legislature

1833 - Again failed in business

1834 - Elected to legislature

1835 - Sweetheart died

1836 - Had nervous breakdown

1838 - Defeated for speaker

1840 - Defeated for elector

1843 - Defeated for Congress
1846 - Elected to Congress
1848 - Defeated for Congress
1855 - Defeated for Senate
1856 - Defeated for Vice-President
1858 - Defeated for Senate
1860 - Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States

Hebrews 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

LASTING SUCCESS: Has God made provision for us to achieve some measure of lasting success?

Joshua 1:7-8 - Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Proverbs 2:7 - He stores up success for the upright; He is a shield for those who live with integrity. (Proverbs 2:1-6 outlines the conditions upon which God grants success)

Psalms 20:4 - May God give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

Psalms 118:25 - LORD, please grant us success!

John 15:8, 16 - My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.

2 Peter 1:3 - His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Conclusion: God absolutely desires and has made every provision for us to pursue and achieve some measure of lasting success as business people in the marketplace, so long as business is not the measure of our success.

LASTING SUCCESS: Is lasting success our personal longing and ambition?

Acts 20:22-24 - And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to

finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” [Jim Elliott]

Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

VALUES: What are they?

- A. A Working Definition: Values are anything we count as worthy of the investment of our time, talents and treasures
- If a business event has “networking value”, we make an investment of our time.
 - If a Christian ministry has “eternal value”, we make an investment of our talents.
 - If a particular stock has good “market value”, we make an investment of our treasures.
- B. Values are what we count as the Treasures and Pleasures of Life

VALUES: What role do values play in our pursuit and achievement of lasting success?

- A. **Question**: What do we want and pursue? **Answer**: We want and pursue what we value!
We ultimately desire and pursue what we believe is most valuable and important!
- B. Worldview = Beliefs → Values → Desires → Behavior → Life Style → Measure of Success
- C. Our Beliefs inform and influence everything we count as valuable in this life and the next!

Illustration: The burning of money

- D. Our Values inform and influence everything we take pleasure in and treasure in life!

The Treasures of Life

Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 12:16-21 - Jesus told this parable: “A rich man’s land was very productive. He thought to himself, ‘What should I do, since I don’t have anywhere to store my crops? I will do this,’ he said. ‘I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods there. Then I’ll say to myself, “You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.” ’ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared—whose will they be?’ “That’s how it is with the one who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Luke 12:32-34 - Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Pleasures of Life

Illustration: PlayStation 2 Game - Grand Theft Auto San Andreas

Luke 16:15 - What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight.

James 4:2-4 - You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Psalms 147:10-11 - His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Philippians 2:12-13 - Therefore, ... work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Conclusion: Do not [value] the world or anything in the world. If anyone [values] the world, the [values] of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its [values] are passing away, but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:15-17)

God's Value Statements in Relation to...

A. His Creatures

Matthew 6:26 - Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

Matthew 10:29-31 - Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

We are God's treasure and God's pleasure. Can we say the same of Him?

B. His People

Deuteronomy 7:6 - The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

C. His Kingdom

Matthew 13:44-46 - The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

D. Earthly Treasures

Luke 16:10-13 - [Jesus said] Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

Challenge: Is there anything of true and lasting value that we could possibly want for ourselves that God does not already desire for us as well?

Conclusion: My Utmost for His Highest - March 17th

Closing Prayer: I pray that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. (Colossians 1:9-12)

Benediction: Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in us what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Scripture Passages on Values

1 Corinthians 6:12 - All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 - Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

1 Timothy 4:7-8 - Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

1 Timothy 6:6-10 - But godliness with contentment is a great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 - Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the age to come, so that they may take hold of life that is real.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man [or woman] of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 - For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

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Colossians 2:3 - In Christ all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.

Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Deuteronomy 7:6 - For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Ecclesiastes 4:6 - Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:26 - For to the man who is pleasing in His sight, God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy, but to the sinner He gives the task of gathering and accumulating in order to give to the one who is pleasing in God's sight.

Exodus 19:5-6 - Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

Hebrews 4:12-13 - For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account

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pleasure of sin. For he considered reproach for the sake of the Messiah to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, since his attention was on the reward.

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Hebrews 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

James 4:2-4 - You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 5:1-5 - Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

Job 23:12 - I have not departed from the commands of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my daily food.

John 15:8, 16 - My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear [much] fruit — fruit that will last.

John 17:4 - I glorified You on the earth having [successfully] accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.

Joshua 1:7-8 - Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Luke 12:16-21 - Jesus told this parable: "A rich man's land was very productive. He thought to himself, 'What should I do, since I don't have anywhere to store my crops? I will do this,' he said. 'I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods there. Then I'll say to myself, "You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself." ' "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the

things you have prepared—whose will they be?’ “That’s how it is with the one who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Luke 12:32-34 - Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 16:10-13 - [Jesus said] Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

Mark 8:33 - But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

Mark 8:34-38 - When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:25-33 - Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 10:29-31 - Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Matthew 13:44-46 - The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Matthew 17:5 - While Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased".

Matthew 19:16-22 - Just then someone came up and asked Him, "Teacher, what good must I do to have eternal life?" "Why do you ask Me about what is good?" He said to him. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." "Which ones?" he asked Him. Jesus answered, Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; honor your father and your mother; and love your neighbor as yourself. "I have kept all these," the young man told Him. "What do I still lack?" "If you want to be perfect," Jesus said to him, "go, sell your belongings and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me." When the young man heard that command, he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.

Matthew 25:14... - The Kingdom of heaven is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability... The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Micah 6:6-8 - With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Philippians 2:12-13 - Therefore, ... work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Philippians 2:14-16 - Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

Philippians 3:4-9 - If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More 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, and 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.

Proverbs 2:7 - He stores up success for the upright; He is a shield for those who live with integrity. (Proverbs 2:1-6 outlines the conditions upon which God grants success)

Psalms 19:7-11 - The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalms 20:4 - May God give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

Psalms 24:1-2 - The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Psalms 50:10-12 - For every animal of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird of the mountains, and the creatures of the field are Mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and everything in it is Mine.

Psalms 51:16-18 - You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem.

Psalms 89:11 - The heavens are Yours; the earth also is Yours. The world and everything in it—You founded them.

Psalms 127:1-2 - Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat — for He grants sleep to those he loves.

Psalms 118:25 - LORD, please grant us success!

Psalms 119:72 - The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

Psalms 147:10-11 - His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Proverbs 2:1-6 - My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 3:13-18 - Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed.

Proverbs 7:1-2 - My son, obey my words, and treasure my commands. Keep my commands and live; protect my teachings as you would the pupil of your eye.

Proverbs 10:22 - The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it. [NIV]

Proverbs 10:22 - The Lord's blessing enriches, and struggle adds nothing to it. [Holman Bible]

Proverbs 10:22 - It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, And He adds no sorrow to it. [NASB]

Proverbs 21:20 - Precious treasure and oil are in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man consumes them.

Proverbs 23:4-5 - Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, Cease from your consideration of it. When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings Like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.

Romans 12:1-2 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Worldview Diagram

