

**Heaven**  
**What Will Last Forever? • Message 8**  
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**June 14, 2026**

**Prayer Points for Prayer Time:**

- **Ask God to remind you that this life is not your home.**
- **Pray to have strong faith when life is hard.**
- **Ask God to fill your mind with His truth each day.**

**Worship Psalm:**

*“Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me.”*

**Psalm 103:2 (NLT)**

**Scripture Reading:**

*Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.*

**1 Timothy 6:6-11 (NLT)**

**A. Introduction**

(1 Timothy 6:7. C/R: Matthew 6:19-20)

I remember maybe a year after Steph and I got married, I think it was Christmas or a holiday, so all the family was around, and we decided to play a game of cards. And I had to pick someone to be on my team.

I looked around the room, and in my heart I knew I was supposed to pick Steph, but in my mind, I looked over and I saw my grandmother... she just had a killer instinct... and so my mind won out, and I picked my grandmother. And Steph and I have been in marriage counseling ever since.

No, but we did dominate. We absolutely crushed.

But the problem with games, though, is once the game's done... it's all over.

Your victories and moments are often short lived.

My son the other day wanted to play Monopoly... you know, the world's longest board game... well, he won, and he was so excited...

He kept collecting properties and would even give some back... you could see the joy in his eyes.

The problem is, though, as soon as the game is over, it all goes back in the box.

You don't get to keep what you got. You have to give it up.

Why do I tell you this...

Because for most of us, we spend our lives collecting things, getting titles and accomplishments... and like my son, or even me in that card game, for a moment it feels awesome... but at some point, it will all go back in the box...

This life doesn't go on forever here on earth.

That's why Paul says this to Timothy:

*For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.*

**1 Timothy 6:7 (NIV)**

Imagine taking a boat to an amazing destination. But while you are on the boat, you spend all your time, energy, and money decorating your room. You get so completely caught up in that and you forget your destination.

Yet this is what we do with our lives... we are so caught up in the here and now, we forget what our destination is.

Life is the boat. Heaven is the destination.

But there are three things I want you to see that are eternal. Things that don't go back in the box...

That's why it says:

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”*

**Matthew 6:19-20 (NIV)**

The reason this talk is so important right now... think about it... when you are on your deathbed... the things that seem so important really aren't as significant. You aren't going to be glad you worked as much, or got the house, or maybe did the thing you're focused on...

Death and heaven have a way of resetting the scoreboard... and I want you right now to live for the right scoreboard... to live for what lasts...

So, what treasures can we take with us?

## **B. Treasures We Take With Us**

### **1.) The WORD of God.**

(1 Peter 1:24-25. C/R: Psalm 1:2-3; Malachi 3:16)

*For, “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever.”*

**1 Peter 1:24-25a (NIV)**

Think about it, we know there are books in heaven. I spoke on the Book of Life... and the other books...

But also:

*Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name.*

**Malachi 3:16 (NIV)**

It's an amazing verse... The Lord is so delighted when we speak about Him that He keeps our words in a special book in heaven.

We won't be all-knowing like God... so, there can be learning in heaven.

So, I expect there to be many books in heaven, but none more central than the Bible.

I shared this before, and I will keep sharing it.

There was a study done that shows...

When someone reads the Bible once a week, it has little effect...

When people read the bible 2-3 times a week, it has some effect...

But when someone reads the Word of God 4 times or more each week, listen to this...

Those people are:

228% more likely to share their faith.

407% more likely to memorize Scripture.

59% less likely to view pornography.

30% less likely to struggle with loneliness, anxiety, or depression.

Here's the point: when the Word of God, and not the world, becomes the majority of your life, everything will change.

That's the kind of power in the Word of God. And it doesn't just affect you now... you carry it with you.

Think about this: we have 70,000 thoughts a day, and 80% of those are negative. That is 56,000 negative thoughts a day.

Most of us dwell on negative things. We think negative thoughts and constantly worry about the future.

And honestly, it's hard to change our thinking because TV has gotten darker. The news- there used to be just local news. Now we read and learn about every tragedy around. So our minds are constantly filled with fear and negativity...

And so we say, *One day in heaven...* and that's true, in heaven we won't have any negative thoughts...

But you can have a little bit of heaven now... and not only does it guide you when you have negative thoughts, it shows you how to live well... it helps us live for heaven and live for what lasts.

*“But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.”*

**Psalm 1:2-3 (NLT)**

Did you notice that those who meditate don't wither away in fear or doubt? Their minds have learned how to bring heaven to this earth now by filling their minds with the Word of God.

<b>Tradition</b>	<b>Focus of Meditation</b>
Eastern	Letting go / detachment / awareness
Western Secular	Mental clarity / stress relief / problem-solving
Biblical	Filling the mind with God's truth

Every verse you study and look into... it will make heaven that much richer to you.

Steph and I went to Italy years ago... she spent time studying and watching Rick Steves and reading books... and I was like, *What's the food scenario?* So we both showed up, and our experiences were very different. Things she had spent time preparing for and anticipating... she saw and she had such joy... it was a richer, deeper experience... I had an amazing time... but I didn't have the same experience. **(SHOW PICTURE)**

Think of someone who spent their life studying space and its magnitude... and then somehow you have someone who was just along for the ride... both are going to have an amazing time... but the person who has carried it in their heart their whole life is going to have a different sort of joy and fullness because they've been preparing...

**2.) PEOPLE.**

(2 Peter 3:9. C/R: Isaiah 55:9)

Perry mentioned this, but why doesn't God return right now? If heaven is so great, why do we have to wait?

*The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.*

**2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)**

See, people are eternal, and we believe they will spend an eternity either with God or without Him. Think about the power of what we experienced a month ago with baptism... people who are literally going to live for eternity with Jesus.

A friend of mine wanted his dad to come to faith...he invited him to Easter, nothing really happened... would pray for him, still nothing... invited him to a men's conference, thinking this is it... nothing...

And one day he was so overwhelmed that on Father's Day he got a card and wrote a note to his dad... and he closed the card saying... *Honestly, Dad, I just don't want to go to heaven without you.*

That was the catalyst that turned his father's heart. A son's longing for his dad.

I have had some people say some interesting things to me after I preached...

I will sometimes have people say, *Hey, when you said this it really was impactful...* and I think, *I never said that.*

I have had people literally tell me to preach more engaging because they fell asleep during my sermon...

But one time I had a moment at a camp where honestly I was getting all sorts of good feedback. I was feeling really good about everything... and I ran into one of "those" people...

And she sort of eyed me up and down and then she said this: *Today was good... but I'm going to pray tonight that God breaks your heart for these kids...* and at first I remember a little defensive spirit rising up in me... because the truth is, as a preacher, you pour your soul into a sermon, and I felt like she was saying I had failed....

But as best as I could, I let my pride go and I just said, *Get behind me Satan... No...*

That night I prayed what she prayed...and asked God to break my heart for the kids...

I started preaching the next day... and I was making some point.... and it was like halfway through I had an experience I've never really had on stage... maybe a couple of times later on.... but God broke me on that stage... and I almost couldn't finish the sermon.

I saw kids who didn't know Jesus, and I felt the pain and the heart of God.

Have you ever felt what God feels for His kids?

If you have kids, you know the emotion you feel when they are doing well, and how much it crushes you when they struggle... and with God it's amplified...

*"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

**Isaiah 55:9 (NIV)**

This is why God longs for His children to repent... He doesn't want to spend eternity without us...

At the end of the day, only one thing matters, and that's people knowing Jesus. It doesn't matter how well you get along with your neighbor, or what your co-workers do good or bad, or even the family relationships you have. Those all matter, but what's eternal are people souls... and it puts perspective on what matters most.

**3.) TREASURE.**

(1 Timothy 6:17-19)

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

**1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)**

Did you notice it says in verse 17 *to put their hope in God*? I find it interesting that on money it says, *In God we trust*. But God tells us here that in money we often trust.

Maybe once a year or so I'll talk on money. I spend 6-7 weeks a year talking on community and 6-7 weeks talking about walking with God. But if I do one money talk a year, some people will go, *Well, the church always talks about money.*

And sometimes we think we give because the church needs money... but the top reason we give is because you need to give, because giving changes you.

You can't take your money with you, but you can send it ahead of you. Think about it... some of you are incredible with managing money, planning, and saving...

Yet the Bible is clear: there is no U-Haul that follows a hearse. Everything you have now will go away...

But Paul is saying to Timothy, someone who is younger, *Hey, don't be afraid to tell the church they can't afford not to give.* Because giving changes you, and it changes others...

The amount of people who get to hear the Word of God... that is eternal...the amount of people who hear the gospel and meet Jesus because of your giving is so overwhelming.

Don't lose sight of that. Don't stare at earthly returns and investments. The Bible says think about heavenly ones.

You know, right before I wrote this sermon, I had a dream. It was a weird dream where I was being chased... and somehow I was part of a gang or community that I couldn't get out of. I kept trying to escape, and I couldn't get out... and the leader of this group was wicked and cruel... and in this dream I watched him literally kill another person in the group... I woke up dripping in sweat and fearful...

Now I'm going to be honest with you... I thought maybe I was dreaming that because I watched John Wick the night before... so literally I'm like, *I need to rethink what I'm watching before bed...*

But as soon as I sat down with God... and this happens from time to time... He said to me, *This dream was for you... it was a prophetic dream...*

He said to me as clear as day... *Money is a terrible master, and it's trying to kill you...*

I'm not a guy that has really ever had God speak to me about money... but honestly, we've had some bills. And all of you guys ahead of me are so encouraging to me, letting me know how expensive college is and car insurance... and I just found myself stressed about money...

And I was looking at money and trying to figure it all out... and I realized this... sometimes what we call stewardship... God calls slavery...

I was so tethered to checking accounts and trying to figure out how I was going to pay for anything... and here's what God said: *Stop looking and trust Me.*

And my wife and I, in this process, just had this revelation: we are working so hard to save money we can't keep. And you can't take hold of this world and heaven...

*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.*

**1 Timothy 6:19 (NIV)**

You can't hold tightly to money and hold onto heaven. The only way to grab hold of heaven is to let go of your resources here.

So can I ask you... how's your time in the Word of God? How's your giving? These things seem so optional today in our culture, but the Bible makes it clear these things are eternal... and so let's live for eternity...

What are your thoughts...