

Title: The generosity ladder Part II – an eternal perspective  
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## Eternal treasure

"I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." Martin Luther

**Matthew 6:19–24 (NLT)** <sup>19</sup> *"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.*

- Jesus invites us to choose our treasury. Don't make stupid investments...
- John Wesley said, "I value all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity."
- Jim Elliot – a profit seeker of true lasting treasure. "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Missionary martyr.
- There is a massive shift in the economy coming...

## Eternal perspective



**The dot** = life on earth / **the line** = life in heaven.

- Right now we are living in the dot. But what are we living for?

**Matthew 6:22-23** <sup>22</sup> *"Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. <sup>23</sup> But when your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!"*

- How is your eye? Is it good or bad?

**Psalms 39:4–7 (NLT)** <sup>4</sup> *"LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered— how fleeting my life is. <sup>5</sup> You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; **at best**, each of us is but a breath." <sup>6</sup> We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it. <sup>7</sup> And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? **My only hope is in you.***

- Foolish people live for the dot. Wise people live for the line.
- **\*Which would you choose?** R1000 to spend today. 10 million a year from now. 10 million every year.
- "You can't take it with you, but you can send it on ahead"

## Eternal treasure

**Matthew 13:44 (NLT)** <sup>44</sup> *"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.*

- **Hidden:** You don't just see it. It is hidden. We need to trust God to open our eyes.
- Christ offers us the incredible opportunity to trade temporary goods and currency for eternal rewards.

- What we keep we will lose. What we give and share and do in Christ's name will ultimately come back to us in heaven, in a far better and permanent form.

## Eat the good of the land

**Isaiah 1:19–20 (NKJV)** <sup>19</sup> *If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land;* <sup>20</sup> *But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword"; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.*

**(1) Supernatural provision for giving.** R.G. LeTourneau understood God's purpose for blessing him financially. An inventor of earthmoving machines, LeTourneau reached the point of giving 90 percent of his income to the Lord.

**(2) Extending the life of things**

**(3) Protecting us from harm** - \*God provides not only in what he gives us, but at times in what he keeps from us. Preventing accidents and incidents that would have been costly.

**(4) Maximising what we keep** - Give graciously to the Lord and ask Him to maximise what we keep.

## Why give sacrificially?

1. **It's a reminder:** A reminder that my life is about God, not about me.
2. **Giving is worship,** every bit as much as praying or singing a hymn.
3. **It's a transfer:** It breaks the chains of Mammon that would enslave me and transfers my centre of gravity to heaven.
4. **Three blessings compared to just one blessing** Acts 20:35 "It's more blessed to give than to receive"  
Why?
  - a. **When we give it blesses not just one but three – us, the recipient and God. Three blessings!**

## Harvest of generosity

**What is your mission?** What are you aiming at?

**2 Corinthians 9:10–11 (NLT)** <sup>10</sup> *For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.* <sup>11</sup> *Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you... can always be generous.*

**Purpose of God enriching us?** So that we can be generous. **Reap a harvest of generosity.** Sending it ahead. Converting our earthly resources into heavenly treasure...

**Note:** The content from this message is found in the book: Money, possessions and eternity by Randy Alcorn. I can highly recommend it.