

# LIVING GENEROUSLY

**Living Generously**, our fall stewardship emphasis, directs our attention to God's plan and promises regarding the *grace of giving*. This week's message encourages us to "**Give Eternally**".

*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. (Matthew 6:19-20, NIV 1984)*

Why is it that we work so hard for the temporary trash of this life? We end up spending hours to tone, shape and sculpt our bodies. We sacrifice time with our Lord and time with our families to put in the horrendous hours at work to try and make enough to pay for the next latest and greatest gadgets and gizmos.

And what's the saddest part about the time we waste? What does it produce—bodies that wear out and the latest and greatest gadgets and gizmos that are out of date as soon as we get them home.

That really shouldn't surprise us. Jesus says that these treasures on earth will be destroyed by moth and rust. Thieves will break in steal the wealth we have stored up for ourselves.

If my life's focus is on my earthly possessions, every day I live is a day I come closer to losing everything. At the same time, if my life's focus is on heavenly treasures, then every day I live is a day I come closer to gaining everything.

How does one keep the focus on heavenly treasure? As I regularly come into contact with the means of grace, I continue to learn about the confident hope that is mine in the resurrection. To know that I have an eternity of bliss in store for me helps me keep things in the right perspective. To know that the foundation for this redemption doesn't rest with me, but it rests in what Jesus has done for me makes all the difference in this world. There is nothing anyone, not even the devil, can do to separate me from the love of Christ and the life he won for me.

With that as the motivation for my life, when my body wears out, and my accessories are out of date, I can still smile—for I know where I am going. I know how I will get there.

