

SONG SERVICE – The Treasures of God - 1/30 – 2/2, 2021
Pastor don Sutton - St. Paul's, New Ulm, MN

WELCOME

DIRECTIONS

GREET & MEET

INVOCATION / CONFESSION OF FAITH

P: We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church – the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

FROM ALL THE A DWELL BELOW THE SKY

CW 250

From all that dwell below the skies Let the Creator's praise arise. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung Through ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eternal are your mercies, Lord; Eternal is your glorious Word. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CONFESSION

P: Let us now confess our sins to almighty God.

C: Holy and merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have failed to love you as you command or to love my neighbor as myself. I deserve your punishment now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins. I trust in Jesus as my Savior. Because of Him, have mercy on me.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(Pastor)

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures...he was buried ...he was raised again on the third day (1Co15:3,4)." "Therefore, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you (Acts 13:38)." "God does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us (Ps 103:10-12)." (NIV)

ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME

CW 370 V.1&3

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown him Lord of all.

Sinners whose love can ne'er forget The wormwood and the gall,
Go, spread your trophies at his feet And crown him Lord of all.
Go, spread your trophies at his feet And crown him Lord of all.

PRAYER FOR THE WORD

O Holy Spirit, come to us with your comforting Word. It alone can drive away our doubts, fears, and weaknesses. Fill us with awe over the greatness of your love. Direct us to our Savior, Jesus, that we may trust in him with our whole heart and receive power to do your will. In his name we pray. Amen.

1) DEVOTION

A Money Matter

Mark 10:17-27

Listen to the account of Mark 10:17-27:

¹⁷ As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'^[a]" ²⁰ "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." ²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²² At this the man's face fell. He went away sad because he had great wealth. ²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is^[b] to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." (NIV)

It's obvious, isn't it, that this man had a problem with self-righteousness? He thought that he was perfect and deserved eternal life. To point this out to the man, Jesus brought up a money matter in this man's life. He had a lot of wealth and his wealth was his number one treasure. It brought the man a sense of value, confidence, and independence. It was more important than God. It got in the way of trust in Jesus for eternal life. With this man money mattered too much.

A lot of people today, probably even some Christians, have the same money matter as the man to whom Jesus spoke. Money matters too much. As a result it consumes them. What's happening in the stock market or in their retirement accounts or in the price of gold or of land is more important than their relationship with God. Money becomes their god.

That is a serious problem. No one can save himself/herself. Only God in his grace can do this through faith in Jesus Christ. But when people, even people professing to be Christians, love and trust in their wealth rather than in Jesus, they might as well be a camel trying to go through the eye of a needle.

WHAT IS THE WORLD TO ME

CW 477 v.1&3

What is the world to me With all its vaunted pleasure?
When you and you alone, Lord Jesus, are my treasure!
You only, dearest Lord, My soul's delight shall be;
You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!

The world seeks after wealth And all that money offers,
Yet never is content Though gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good; Content with it I'll be;
My Jesus is my wealth - What is the world to me!

2) DEVOTION

Cheat the Cheapskate

Proverbs 3:9,10

2 Corinthians 9:7

1 Corinthians 16:2

(Screen – Nametag on a man) “Hello – my name is Cheapskate.” Could you say this of yourself? Many of us may do battle with this. This may be especially true when it comes to our offerings. Giving to the Lord is a sensitive subject. Let’s face it, giving offerings is often a battle with the cheapskate in us – the sinful nature within us – who can raise all kinds of fears and negative feelings about giving. “Why should I give offerings? It’s a waste for money.” “I could use the money I give in offerings for all kinds of good things.” ... “We have too many people living off the church and making too much money.” “If I give offerings, I won’t have enough to” “I’ll give something if there’s anything left after I take care of other things.” This is the cheapskate in us talking.

To help us in giving God teaches us in his word is that our offerings given to the Lord for gospel ministry and for helping others in need are a way to worship, honor and thank God for saving and blessing us, that is when we give out of a godly attitude and in a godly way. God provides guidance for such godly giving in three passages we consider now.

The first is Proverbs 3:9,10: **“Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.”** What is God saying to us? Obviously, using our wealth in a godly way honors him. But in speaking of the firstfruits he is using an agricultural term to emphasize that he wants to be first in our lives and in our budget. Where does he fit in your budget? What comes first? The cheapskate in us says, “Put me first.” God says, “Remember my love for you. My Savior put you first. Now put me first.”

The second passage we consider is 2 Corinthians 9:7: **“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”** God is saying here that each one – no exceptions – is to give. Our giving is to be planned, motivated by faith and love for God (in the heart), not forced or given reluctantly, but given out of one’s joy over the salvation he or she enjoys.

In the Old Testament God commanded his people to give the tithe. The tithe was 10%. In some Christian churches they still strongly encourage the tithe – 10% - and in other churches they use the term simply to refer to offerings. What about the tithe in our lives? As Paul said no one is to compel us to give reluctantly. So I can’t tell you have to give a tithe. But let’s not use this New Testament freedom as an excuse to become cheapskates in giving to the Lord. Think of God’s love and generosity to you. Then prayerfully respond with planned and cheerful giving.

The third passage is 1 Corinthians 16:2: **“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.”** Some take Paul’s mention of the first day of the week that even if they get paid every other week, they still need to have an envelope for every weekend. His point is that as each one of you have income– no exceptions, regularly set aside and give your offerings. Also he is saying, “Make your offering proportionate to your income.” In other words if you make \$80,000 as a couple pick a percent of this that you want to give; if make \$8,000, pick your percent that you want to give and give accordingly. The cheapskate within us would lowball this.

Folks, we need to cheat the cheapskate in us by looking at the Lord’s promises and the Lord’s love. God the Son gave everything for us that we might be his for time and eternity. He wasn’t cheap in giving for us. Let’s cheat the cheapskate in giving in to the Lord.

FORGIVE US, LORD

CW 482 v.1,2

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness, For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,
For songs of praise for worldly wealthiness, While of your richer gifts we're unaware.

Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace, For life and vision, for a purpose clear,
For Christ, your Son, and for each human face That shows your message ever new and near.

3) DEVOTION

He Gave All!

2 Corinthians 8:9

Most people have heard of the generosity of the likes of Warren Buffett and Bill Gates. But only a few may have heard of Chuck Feeney. Feeney, an Irish-American, made his fortune as co-founder of a retail chain called Duty Free Shoppers which specialized in luxury goods. His business earned him billions. But one of his goals was to give away his fortune before he died. He wanted to do his giving while still living. So, for over 30 years he's been secretly giving away his lifetime's worth of earnings through The Atlantic Philanthropies, one of the largest private charitable foundations in the world.

Late in 2020, at the age of 89, Feeney took a big step in achieving his goal. He had given away all his money in his foundation – over \$8 billion. He now lives a frugal life in a modest apartment in San Francisco. He does not own a car or a house and wears a \$10 watch. He lives on limited savings which he wants gone when he dies. His goal is to die penniless. When he dies, Feeney will have enriched millions of lives through his poverty.

But not anywhere near as much as the Lord Jesus Christ did with his giving. St. Paul wrote of him in 1 Corinthians 8:9: **“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”**

As the eternal Son of God and co-creator of the universe, God the Son had it all. Everything belonged to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God the Son lived in glory, had all power, knew everything. He enjoyed perfect love and unending life. He was rich beyond compare. But he gave it all away.

The same St. Paul who wrote to the Corinthians wrote this to the Philippians about God the Son: **“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”**

Taking on human nature, humbling himself, putting himself under the law over which he was Lord, becoming a servant, he gave up his life, his soul, his all that we be rich.

God has given us this wealth through faith in Jesus. This richness consists of enjoying life with God, of having the love of God, of possessing the forgiveness of sins, wearing the holiness of Jesus, basking in the goodness of God, having a place in heaven, enjoying God's Spirit strengthening, comforting, and giving us motivation to love and live for God. Jesus gave all, that we have all!

GR. 3-4 SONG

Arise, Shine!

4) CHILDREN'S DEVOTION

Get It Right

Today I brought a couple of brushes – one (a toothbrush) to brush my hair; the other (a hairbrush) to brush my teeth. ... (To the children) You're looking at me like I'm a doing something wrong or I'm a little

cooookie. ... What's wrong? ... (The children say that I need to use the brushes the other way around.) So you're saying I've got this wrong and I need to do it the other way around? You're telling me to get it right? ...Okay ... Okay ... Okay... I get it.

Do you realize that we get a lot of things mixed up in our lives so that we don't do them the right way including how we use our money – even though God may give us clear directions he wants us to follow? These mix-ups are sinful and make us deserve of God's punishment.

But Jesus came to get it right for us and he did. He never sinned. Then he righted things for us when he died on the cross for our sins. He did this so we could be right with God.

Now to thank him we want to get it right when it comes to our lives. We want to live for him. And one of the areas in which we will want to do this is how we use the things he gives us. We want to thank God for these things. We don't want waste money like buying all kinds of things we don't need and not getting the things we need. We want to take care of the things God gives us and use them well.

When it comes to things, we want to do what you told me, "Get it right." (like brushing my teeth with the toothbrush and my hair, with the hairbrush). Thanks for coming up. Have a good day.

TAKE THE WORLD BUT GIVE ME JESUS

CW 355 v.1&3

Take the world, but give me Jesus! All its joys are but a name.
But his love abides forever, Through eternal years the same.
Oh, the height and depth of mercy; Oh, the length and breadth of love!
Oh, the fullness of redemption, Pledge of endless life above!

Take the world, but give me Jesus! In his cross my trust shall be
Till with clearer, brighter vision Face to face my Lord I see.
Oh, the height and depth of mercy; Oh, the length and breadth of love!
Oh, the fullness of redemption, Pledge of endless life above!

5) DEVOTION

Be Wise

Proverbs 21:30

In Proverbs 21:30 it is written, "**There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.**" As I read this passage one of the things that quickly comes to mind is Jesus' words about the Kingdom of God, "...the gates of hell will not overcome it (Matt 16:18)." The devil with all his schemes and plans will not overcome God. That's clear.

But do we stop to think what this passage means for us when it comes to our daily lives and our own economic condition? If we choose to pursue to lifestyle where we do not wisely use the resources God gives us, our plan may succeed for a while, but not long-term. If our plan for managing of our resources is to put ourselves before God, spend on all kinds of things we don't need, rack up all kinds of debt we can't handle, pursue with our resources things that are ungodly, and not take care of the basic needs of our families, eventually our plans will fail and financially we will fall flat on our faces.

In our lives we need to have godly values – e.g. "Christ is my greatest treasure. My relationship with Jesus is most important. His word is the basis for my values and is the guide for my life. Family is important to me. Keeping my family close to God is important. Seeing to their physical well-being is important. Glorifying God through work or school is important to me. Health is important to me."

This will lead to setting godly goals, including in how you use your material wealth –

- to give first and generously to the Lord,
- to be content with the level of blessing God has given you live within your means, to care for your family and provide for the things they need including education,
- to not spend on impulse but practice self-control,
- to not go into debt unless you must and have a realistic plan to pay-down debt,
- to work to eliminate the debts you have,
- to trust that the Lord will get you through unforeseen financial emergencies but at the same time to wisely save for those times,
- to enjoy the material things God gives you with thanksgiving, but not worship or trust in them.

You see, if you don't get it right when it comes to your finances, things will go wrong ...in your glorifying God and in your financial circumstances. Therefore, seek God's guidance and God's power so that you glorify God and enjoy his blessing.

BROTHERS, SISTERS, LET US GLADLY

CW 484 v.1&2

Brothers, sisters, let us gladly Give to God our all, our best --
Service hearty, thorough, honest, With a living love impressed.
All our duty, all our striving, All our time to him belong;
Praise him, then, with true devotion; Come before him with a song.

By his mercy, by his bounty, By the gift of Christ, his Son,
What great goodness he has shown us, What high marvels he has done!
Let us to him promptly, freely, Yield our bodies and our souls,
Thankful that his love protects us, That his wisdom all controls.

6) DEVOTION

Trust God Completely

2 Corinthians 9:10

“What if our economy tanks? ... What if the stock market goes bust? ... What if I lose my job?... What if I become ill, can't work, and have all kinds of out-of-pocket expenses.” Do you ever think these things? Fear may be a factor that forces us to hold back in giving. That's why God gives us some powerful promises to assure us that when we give generously, he will supply our needs faithfully.

You heard God speak in Proverbs 3:9,10: **“Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.”**

In 2 Corinthians 9:10 God through the Apostle Paul gives this assurance: **Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.”**

Do you hear God speaking to you, assuring you, comforting you? He's saying, “When you put me first and give generously, I will take care of you. I will see to it that you have enough to keep doing the good things that you do out of love for me.” There may be times when God tests you, but he will always be there to take care of you.

Therefore, when you ponder, plan, and give your offerings, trust God completely! To keep this trust alive and strong, let the Holy Spirit work in you through God's Word and God's sacraments.

ALL DEPENDS ON OUR POSSESSING

CW 421 v. 1&4

All depends on our possessing God's abundant grace and blessing,
Though all earthly wealth depart. They who trust with faith unshaken
In their God are not forsaken And e'er keep a dauntless heart.

Well he knows what best to grant me; All the longing hopes that haunt me,
Joy and sorrow have their day. I shall doubt his wisdom never
As God wills, so be it ever -- I to him commit my way.

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

(All)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name; your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

ON MY HEART IMPRINT YOUR IMAGE

CW 319

On my heart imprint your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Have no pow'r to hide your face.
This the superscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation.