

*THE ULTIMATE LIFE SERMONS*

theultimate**life**

Some things are worth more than money.



# SERMON TITLE #1:

## *The Treasure of Thankfulness*

**SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 5:19-20

**THEME:** Discover the Golden List (10 Things I'm Grateful to God For)

### Introduction

Introduce series, "The Ultimate Life"

Introduce movie, *The Ultimate Life*, brief synopsis of story

Video clip: *The Ultimate Life*, train scene re: "Golden List" (20:08-24:00, end after "otherwise, you'll never be grateful for nothing")

Throughout series, we're going to learn about the Ultimate Life also from the writings of Paul, a man who lived The Ultimate Life and taught it to others

Introduce text: Ephesians 5:20

#### 1. Give thanks to God

If you have put your trust in Christ...

- a. You have been forgiven and redeemed (Eph. 1:7)
- b. You have been given the riches of his grace (Eph. 1:7-8)
- c. You have been shown the mystery of his will (Eph. 1:8-10)
- d. You have been guaranteed an inheritance (Eph. 1:11-14)
- e. You are seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
- f. You are brought near (Eph. 2:13)
- g. You are brought in (Eph. 2:14-18)
- h. You are brought together (Eph. 2:19-22)
- i. You are included in God's family (Eph. 3:6)
- j. You are invited into God's presence (Eph. 3:13)

#### 2. Give thanks always

- a. Make it a daily habit
  - i. Make a "Golden List" every day

#### 3. Give thanks for everything, on every occasion

- a. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you (1 Thessalonians 5:18, KJV).
- a. In little things (as the hobo said, "otherwise, you'll never be grateful for nothing")
- b. Even in difficulty
  - i. One reason—you don't know enough to distinguish good from bad, ultimately
  - ii. Another reason—giving thanks can transform curse to blessing
    1. Ann Voskamp's story (*One Thousand Gifts*)

### Conclusion

Handout...write your first Golden List (10 Things I'm Grateful to God For)

# SERMON TITLE #2:

## *The Treasure of Generosity*

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

**THEME:** All we have is a gift, and God empowers us to manage these assets in a way that honors Him and also allows us to give back because “it is more blessed to give than to receive.”

### Introduction

Calculus=the study of change

If we could believe God’s calculus instead of our own, we would be blown away by what God will do in/through/with our money...when he has our hearts

**1. Be guided by gratitude (v. 5 (‘not grudgingly’), vv. 11, 12)**

b. See your life as a “gift”

*Video clip: [The Ultimate Life](#), where Red gives Hamilton a kidney (1:26:50-1:31:42)*

c. See your money/possessions as a “grace” (v. 14)

d. See your money/possessions as a “trust” (v. 8)

**2. Be cheerful in giving (v. 7)**

**3. Be generous on every occasion (v. 11)**

### Conclusion

We are not only recipients but administrators of his grace, which helps us live “open-handed” rather than “tight-fisted.” When we experience the truth that “it is more blessed to give than to receive” we reflect God’s nature– “for God so loved the world that He gave...”

# SERMON TITLE #3:

## *The Treasure of Contentment*

**SCRIPTURE:** Philippians 4:10-13

**THEME:** Contentment is a great gift from God. We can have all the money in the world, but be empty, lack peace, and be bankrupt in what's really important.

### Introduction

Video clip: *The Ultimate Life*, scene when Jay says "I have enough" (1:34:22-1:38:26)

Can you imagine? Giving back \$10k? Having enough? Being that content?

Paul was: Philippians 4:10-13, 1 Timothy 6:6

#### 1. Clearly define your needs

- a. Eccl. 5:10
- b. "Money has never yet made anyone rich" (Seneca)
- c. If you wait until you have "enough" to be content, you'll never be content

#### 2. Keep yourself occupied with gratitude and gladness of heart

- a. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you (1 Thessalonians 5:18, KJV).
- b. When God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God. He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart (Ecclesiastes 5:19-20, NIV).

#### 3. Focus on things that endure

- a. Put away riches in heaven that will not be used up. There, no thief can come near it. There, no moth can destroy it (Luke 12:33, NIRV).
- b. Obviously, "riches in heaven" include your salvation, your relationship with God.

#### 4. Don't focus on "getting" (not even getting contentment), but on giving

- a. Contentment is a lot like one of those "magic eye" pictures...If you focus on it, you'll never see it...you have to focus on something beyond it, and that something is outflow to others.

### Conclusion

Revisit point about "riches in heaven" including salvation; invitation to begin or renew a relationship with God through Jesus Christ

# SERMON TITLE #4:

## *The Treasure of Relationships*

**SCRIPTURE:** Philippians 1:1-11

**THEME:** We shouldn't go through life alone. Everybody in this world needs somebody to believe in them and love them.

The real treasure in life is relationships...with God and with family and friends. ‘

### **Introduction**

No one should go through life alone. No one wants to go through life alone. We all want someone who believes in us.

*Video clip: The Ultimate Life (44:14-44:58, "I would've believed in you, Red")*

How do we go about building those relationships?

- 1. Be quick to bless others (vv. 1-2)**
- 2. Be grateful for your relationships (v. 3)**
- 3. Be prayerful in your relationships (vv. 4-5)**
- 4. Be hopeful in your relationships (v. 6)**
- 5. Be transparent in your relationships (vv. 7-8)**
- 6. Be purposeful in your relationships (vv.9-11)**

### **Conclusion**

Make a relationship with God through Jesus Christ central to all your relationships

Appeal to begin a relationship with God through Jesus Christ

# SERMON TITLE #5:

## *The Treasure of Life Purpose*

**SCRIPTURE:** Philippians 3:4-14

**THEME:** The power of having a focused life purpose. It can inspire us, motivate us to action, and carry us through the challenges we face in life.

### Introduction

What are you living for? Are you living life on purpose...or by accident?

Video clip: *The Ultimate Life* (14:22-16:04, ending "he ended up a billionaire....So will I")

**1. Specify your non-priorities (vv. 4-6)**

- a. Look back at where you've come from
- b. List things you've tried, found wanting
- c. Describe the person you do NOT want to be

**2. State your purpose (vv. 7-8)**

- a. Draft a mission statement
- b. Draft a vision statement

**3. Devise a plan to get there**

- a. Goals (things you can control)
- b. Objectives (things you can't control but hope for)

### Conclusion

Make sure your plan takes soul/eternity into consideration

- a. Gain Christ ("that I may gain Christ" v. 8)
- b. Know Christ ("I want to know Christ" v. 10)
- c. Become like Christ ("becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead" v. 10b-11)

# SERMON TITLE #6:

## *The Treasure of Leaving a Legacy*

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Timothy 3:10-4:8

**THEME:** The satisfaction of a positive legacy that impacts the world and influences those you love.

### Introduction

Talk about inheritances; examples of heirlooms

Everyone wants to be remembered. Everyone wants to leave a legacy of some kind. Question is, whether we are building the legacy we want to leave

Video clip: *The Ultimate Life* (1:32-10-1:34:21, ending “You still got time, Red”)

1. Consider the example you are setting (3:10-11)
2. Choose what and whom you will invest in (4:1-5)
3. Continue with the end in mind (4:6-8)
  - a. Fight
  - b. Finish
  - c. Keep

### Conclusion

As Hamilton told Red, “You’ve still got time.”

Now is the time....Now is the day (2 Cor. 6:2)...salvation/commitment appeal