



Is Your Life Making A Difference?

DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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Your life is a precious gift from God. There is only one of them that will ever exist in the entire history of this world. Sadly, there are many people who do not make the most of their opportunities to live on this earth. Instead, their lives have simply been added to the long list of people to have walked the face of the earth. But, what about *your* life? Can you honestly say that your life has made a difference? As you consider how you can live so as to make a difference on this earth, please recognize that you will either help people accumulate physical treasures or spiritual treasures. Yet, there is a big difference in these two.

1) Helping people accumulate physical treasures. There are many people who have been focused on accumulating their own physical treasures while they have lived on this earth. Therefore, whenever they think about making a difference in the lives of other people, they think about helping them in some physical way. Perhaps they want to leave behind money to those they love. Perhaps they want to leave money to the needy. Perhaps they want to provide educations for others. Perhaps they want to contribute to scientific or medical research. Perhaps they want to lead a social or cultural movement to change something within a society. Perhaps they want to invent some new thing that will improve the quality of life.

Regardless of what the contribution to society is, it is meaningless so long as it is only focused on physical treasures. Ultimately, Jesus said that our physical treasures will be taken from us. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19). Then, they will be lost at death (see Luke 12:16-21). Therefore, if you are trying to make a difference in your life by solely helping other people accumulate physical treasures, please recognize that they will only last (at most) for as long as life continues on this earth.

2) Helping people accumulate spiritual treasures. There is a better way to make a difference. Rather than putting your focus in areas that will only last for a short period of time, you should determine to live your life in a way that will make an eternal difference! You can do this by focusing on spiritual treasures. Jesus contrasted eternal spiritual treasures with temporary

physical treasures in Matthew 6:20. He said, “but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

So, you should determine to give your own life to God to be used in His service, storing up the spiritual treasures that are produced by doing His will (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Then, as you focus on your spiritual treasures, you should commit to helping others recognize the need to store up their own spiritual treasures. Help them recognize that their lives and treasures on earth are only temporary. Help them recognize that there is something for which they must prepare after death. Help them recognize the serious nature of sinning against God. Help them recognize that they have been given an opportunity to be saved from their sins through Jesus Christ. Help them recognize what God has instructed them to do to be saved. Help them recognize their need to give their lives entirely to serving God and storing up spiritual treasures in Heaven!

When your life on this earth is over, none of your physical contributions will make a difference beyond the lives they have touched for a short period of time on this earth. However, by devoting your life entirely to God, you can help other people store up spiritual treasures in Heaven so as to be saved eternally. Thus, your life will have made a difference for all of eternity! So, is your life making a difference? When your life on this earth ends, what kind of contribution will you have made? You can choose today to use your life to start making a difference that will last throughout eternity!

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