

Investing for Christ's Coming

Matthew 25:14-30

Kingdom Come! (Gospel of Matthew Series)

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livinghopechurch.net

“The imminent return of our Lord is the great Bible argument for a pure, unselfish, devoted, unworldly, active life of service.”

~ R.A. Torrey

Open your Bible to **Matthew 24**. We are getting back to our series in the book of Matthew entitled “Kingdom Come.” This morning we are looking at a message entitled: “Faithfully Waiting for Christ's Coming.”

Proposition: Because Jesus could come at any time, you need to be faithful in investing all that He's given you in Christ.

The Investment

I was so excited! We had funds to remodel our bathroom. I had taken a sledgehammer after our evening service and stayed up till 3 in the morning to bring parts of it down to the studs. There I had \$300 worth of tile. I had the adhesive, the grout, and an industrial tile cutter in my wife's kitchen.

What would have happened had I done nothing with it. Some of you know I did remodel my bathroom. I found out that Pastor Mike does a great job grouting the tile. I hired a guy to do the plumbing. I learned how to do some of the electrical. And the bathroom today looks fantastic! We think it's the nicest room in the house.

But what if I would have done nothing with those stacks of tile? Thanksgiving and Christmas, eating dinner on that gigantic tile saw that was like a small table.

That wouldn't have gone over very well.

Yet there are plenty of people that do very little with the Gospel. That's what today's parable is all about.

Introduction

I love this passage because Jesus gives **four parables** to illustrate how we can faithfully wait for His coming. The stories He tells identify four areas of our life that we need to manage well while we are waiting.

- Your heart
- Your worship
- Your stewardship – today
- Your church – next week

These are four treasures God has given you to use wisely. They are precious to Him. He wants you to pay careful attention to how you use these treasures for His glory.

Invest your **Stewardship Well**, Mt 25:14-30.

Brothers and sisters, we have a responsibility to serve our Master with all our worldly resources and abilities. So we come to “the **Parable of the Good Investor.**”

A Major Investment Strategy

We know that these parables are telling stories for larger Kingdom purposes. This parable of the Good Investor is not so that we can make Wall Street richer, but so that we can expand God's Kingdom and lay up treasure in heaven.

So this is the parable traditionally called the parable of the Talents. And once you find out how much a talent is worth, then the parable becomes a lot more interesting and powerful. Once we see the great worth of the talent, we see what Jesus is communicating about the Kingdom.

The Value of a Talent of Gold

A talent of gold is the amount of weight a man could carry on his back, between 75 and 80 pounds. In today's currency, that's about \$1.25 million dollars. A million and a quarter dollars is a ton of money.

So, as we read this parable, realize that you have a very rich investor calling upon you to open a small business. This is not just a call to put this in stock or in a CD. The way you invested in the ancient world was in a small business.

We might say this is the parable of the Good Small Business Investor. Let's read it.

The Parable of the Good Investor

Matthew 25:14-30, “For it [God's Kingdom/life in the church] will be like a [extraordinarily wealthy] man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his [massive] property [and investments]. 15 To one he gave five talents [\$6.25 million dollars], to another two [\$2.5 million], to another one [\$1.25 million], to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents [\$6M] went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more [\$13M total]. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more [\$2.5 to \$5M]. 18 But he who had received the one talent [\$1M] went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ 26 But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with

the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

I. **The Responsibility of Christ's Investment, Mt 25:14-15.**

THE MASSIVE INVESTMENT

As we read the first paragraph (vs. 14-18), we see that the Gospel is a massive investment. We need to invest it wisely. We need to invest all our time and treasure for the Gospel.

Like a Small Business, the Gospel Takes Over Our Lives

A talent is a small fortune. A talent “was the amount of weight a soldier could carry on his back and referred to seventy-five to a hundred pounds of gold or silver.”¹ In today's money (2016), it is **\$1.25 million** dollars.

Matthew 25:14-15, “For it [God's Kingdom/Gospel living] will be like a [extraordinarily wealthy] man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his [massive] property [and investments]. 15 To one he gave five talents [\$6.25 million dollars], to another two [\$2.5 million], to another one [\$1.25 million], to each according to his ability. Then he went away.”

The Massive Investment Takes Over Our Lives

The point is Jesus is giving us something so valuable that it takes over our lives. We need to at least double our money. He's not telling us to invest in CDs. He's telling us that we need to invest in something like a small business. In other words, if we invest wisely, we will invest in the Gospel where *it takes over our lives*.

Matthew 10:37 says Jesus takes over everything: “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”³⁸ And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.³⁹ Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

You lose your life in taking on this investment!

THE MASSIVE GENEROSITY OF GOD

We see something else that is massive. Look at the massive generosity of God. God's heart of love is infinite! The Master in this parable is pointing to a generous God. We deserve hell, but God gives us His Son! What do we say to the fact that God has given us so much? What a generous God we have!

OUR MASSIVE RESPONSIBILITY

In **Mt 25:15**, we read that the Master gives “to each according to his ability.” In the parable, the Master “gave his slaves a fortune in money, probably a large part of his net worth.”²

Wealthy landowners often entrusted their property and affairs to trustworthy servants (*doulos*, slave) when they went away on business.³ These servants were equipped.⁴

¹ Osborne, G. R. (2010). *Matthew* (Vol. 1, pp. 923–924). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

² *Ibid.*, Osborne, 924.

³ Wilkins, M. J. (2004). *Matthew* (p. 806). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Osborne, 923.

Some were:

- Highly Skilled Business Experts
- Accountants
- Teachers
- Treasurers
- Administrators

1. We have every spiritual blessing in Christ

We have all we need in Christ. Eph. 1:3- we have “every spiritual blessing” in Christ. Each of us has a vital part in the body of Christ (Eph. 4:15-16). Each of us is to be doing “the work of ministry” (Eph 4:11-12) as we are equipped by the Word.

2. We will give an account for all the blessings we have

Luke 12:48, “...to whom much is given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom is entrusted much, more will be demanded.”

We’ve been given so much! It’s all a gift. Remember what St. Paul said at the end of his life?

2 Timothy 4:6b-8, “the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.”

Some of you have been on the earth for a while. And you can say, “My departure” isn’t that far away. We can all say (**Jms 4:14**), “Life is a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.”

Our accounting with Christ will be soon. We are weak, but Christ is merciful!

II. The **Urgency** of Christ’s Investment, Mt 25:16-18.

1. The mark of a true convert is to invest the Gospel *urgently & immediately*.

Mt 25:16-17, “He who had received the five talents [\$6M] went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more [\$13M total]. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more [\$2.5 to \$5M].”

The first two servants **immediately** (“at once,” vs. 15) began investing the precious sum that they were given.

Investment Strategy: The sooner you invest, the better

Some of you know about investment strategies. You’ve studied Dave Ramsey. You know that the sooner you invest the more profit you receive over your life time.

So it is with the Gospel. You don’t have to be a theologian to start investing!

ZEAL: A Mark of True Conversion

One of the marks of true conversion is the **zeal** that begins to work in the heart and transform the life. The first industrious slave gets started immediately and puts a lot of energy into his task, earning 100 percent profit. God calls us to zealously give up everything for the kingdom!

“I Must Tell Everyone”

I remember the night I was saved. I heard Keith Craft give the Gospel from the book of Judges. How Sampson was a type of Christ and saved more people in his death than in his life. I heard that Jesus Christ died for me personally, and that if I were the only one on the planet who was a sinner, He would have gladly died for me!

Now I knew there was a way to get rid of my sins. I had a very messed up childhood. What could take away the stain of my sin? Only Jesus.

Now I wanted to tell everyone! I thought, “If this is true, I want to tell everyone on the planet!” That’s what God does in the human heart when He saves us. There is an urgency about Christ!

He’s coming again! Are you ready? Are you investing?

No Hurry

There is an old fable in which three apprentice devils were talking to Satan. The first one said, “I will tell people there is no God.” Satan replied, “That will not fool many, because they know there is a God.” The second devil said, “I will tell them there is no hell.” Satan said, “You will never fool many that way, because they know there is a hell.” The third said, “I will tell people there is no hurry.” Satan said, “Go, and you will ruin millions.”⁵

There is an urgency to each moment of our lives saints. Can you feel it?

2. The mark of a false convert is to receive the Gospel & treat it with indifference.

Jesus said, “Many are called, but few are chosen” (Mt 22:14). He said many will claim to know Him on Judgement Day, but he will say to a great multitude, “Depart from me, I never knew you” (Mt 7:21-23).

They are like the man who took this 75 pound pile of gold and buried it in the ground instead of investing it.

Dear friend, you have the Gospel, but what are you doing with it? There are plenty of people who go to church and say they believe, but what does your life say?

Mt 25:18, “But he who had received the one talent [*\$IM*] went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.”

The slothful servant did nothing with the precious gift of his Master. He “went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money” (vs. 18).

Those who hear the Gospel and have the Gospel that Jesus died for our sins, but do nothing with it are very much like this man who buries this treasure.

Perhaps you are indifferent today. It is a sure sign that though you have knowledge, you are lost.

3. The urgency of your zeal is the mark of true conversion.

The New Heart (Eze. 37:25-27). God takes out our heart of stone, and puts in a tender heart – zealous to do his will when we are converted. Are you zealous to invest your life for God? How are you investing? You call yourself a saint of God, but are you investing in:

- Personal holiness?
- Service to Christ? – what do you do with your time?

⁵ William Barclay, *The Gospel of Matthew*, vol. 2, Chapters 11–28 (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1958), 350–51.

- The Bible – witnessing, telling others?
- Your giving? – tithes and offerings? Giving to Missions?
- Where your treasure is, that's where your heart is!

Or are you doing **nothing** with the Gospel?

III. The **Return** on Christ's Investment, Mt 25:19-23.

1. The Master is coming, and He expects a return, Mt 25:19.

Mt 25:19, "Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them."

There is a long time before the day of reckoning. Certainly, this is referring to the Second coming of Christ. No one knows the day or the hour. We need to prepare to invest as if we will live our whole lives before He comes. That needs to be our mentality.

Something happens with the faithful servants. There is an urgency in them, and they have a zeal to invest the Master's treasure.

Settling Accounts

"Settling accounts" (συναίρει λόγον) is an accounting phrase for settling the books.⁶ We must ask:

- Will Jesus say I was responsible with the Gospel when He comes?
- Am I was wasting the time, the treasure and the gifting He's given me to use in the Body of Christ?

The Ultimate Test: ACT Exam & Phil Soen, PhD

All over this country there are students—including my own children—who are taking important tests. In some cases day to day tests and quizzes are not particularly serious. But for others this is a life-changing moment.⁷ Katie is preparing for the ACT. How she does on that will determine the level of scholarships she gets for college.

I heard about one very important test in particular yesterday: Phil Soen took his oral exams for his PhD from Dallas Theological Seminary and passed them.

Everything he has done for the last several years was being assessed, and the results will determine the course of the rest of his life: what sort of job he will get, where he and his family will live, and a thousand other things large and small.⁸

Not everyone sits down to be quizzed on an expert level for doctoral examinations. Some of you have. Some of you are doctors out there.

There is coming a day when Christ is going to test us. It's really not a hard test. He's done all the work. He just asks us to give out the answer key to everyone we see.

Jesus is the answer! He's the answer for the world today. He's the way, the truth and the life. Have you given out the answer key?

He's coming any moment to see if we've been faithful with what He's given us.

⁶ Osborne, 925.

⁷ Wright, T. (2004). *Matthew for Everyone, Part 2: Chapters 16-28* (p. 136). London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

⁸ Wright, *Ibid.*

We Need to Take His Coming Seriously: Scriptures on the Day of Christ

Our faith will be tested in this life, by how we invest our time, treasure and gifts. What have you been given by Jesus Christ? Are you using all your abilities and powers to serve Jesus?

2 Corinthians 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

And then Paul says in **1 Corinthians 3:12-15**, “Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—¹³each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.”

Explanation...

The person whose work is burned up has done something with the treasure. But he or she has proclaimed Christ for wrong motives. Paul is speaking of the Corinthian believers whom he praises in the first two chapters. He has commended them. They have invested the Gospel. They have grown and changed in Christ. But they have wrong motives for investing.

Some wrong motives might be:

- Self-promotion, vain-glory and pride
- A legalistic spirit that hinders people from growing
- A spirit of rivalry, like the Corinthians had among them
- Yet they were growing and changing – they were saved – but some as by fire. They had some measure of fruit, but it was not what it could have been

Listen, Jesus is coming, and he expects a return at His Return!

2. The quality of the return will be measured by what you have been given, Mt 25:20-23. “each according to his ability” vs. 15. What abilities has God given you?

Mt 25:20-23, “And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’”

3. Our return, though little, is faithful, and much in God's eyes!

Vs. 21, 23, we read, “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.”

Some of the marks of God's people is:

- They are constantly growing and changing.
- They are constantly sharing Christ with others.
- They are continually serving others

- They are always in prayer and filled with joy worshipping God
- They are faithful in their love for God's family
- They are faithful in their own family (if they've been given a spouse or children)
- They are faithful in their finances
- They are faithful in their service to God's church

The Bike and the Quarter

The return we give God is so little, but it is much when God is in it. God multiplies our return doesn't he?

We can all say with Paul in **1 Cor 15:10** (KJV), "But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

Illustration

Six-year-old William approaches his father with a request. The dialogue goes something like this:

"Dad, I'm six now. Can I buy a bike?"

"Well, Son, I'm sure you are old enough to learn to ride, but how are you going to buy a bike?"

"I have a quarter, Dad! Remember, you give me a quarter every week when I help you wash the car. This week I saved it because I want to buy a bike. I didn't buy candy with it this week."

"You really are serious about buying a bike if you passed up candy! Well, if you think you are ready for a bike, go get your quarter and let's go shopping."

After checking out several stores, they find a bike that William really likes. William's father looks at the price tag and calculates that with tax the bike will cost one hundred dollars—a far cry from a quarter.

"Son, are you sure this is the bike you want?"

"I sure am! I've always dreamed of having a bike like this. This is the one I want—and I've got my quarter!"

"OK then; wheel the bike up to the counter, Johnny, and let's pay the clerk."

Johnny pushes the bike up to the checkout counter, lays his quarter on the counter, and says to the clerk, "I want to buy this bike."

The clerk smiles at him, winks at his father and replies, "Sure, Son, you've made a great choice."

Dad turns to Johnny and says, "Son, take the bike outside and wait for me on the sidewalk. I want to talk to the lady."

As Johnny leaves the store, his father writes out a check for \$ 99.75 and then joins his son outside.⁹

Little is Much When God is in it!

Like little William, we do our best. It's weak. It's pitiful. But it is faithful. "The righteous falls seven times and rises again" (**Pro 24:16**). We give all that we are, but in the end it is so little.

Philippians 2:12b-13 says it well: "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

⁹ Berg, Jim. Changed Into His Image (Kindle Locations 1265-1282). BJU Press/JourneyForth. Kindle Edition.

But I want you to know, little is much when God is in it! There's an old Gospel song which goes:

*Little is much when God is in it!
Labor not for wealth or fame;
There's a crown, and you can win it,
If you go in Jesus' name.*¹⁰

God has given us so much! We sometimes don't know what to do with it all. We don't always do the right thing with the Gospel. But we do something with it.

It's hard to believe the lazy servant in the parable. Can you imagine putting 1.25 million dollars into a hole and burying it? But that's what some people do with the Gospel. They do nothing with it.

What are you doing with what God has given you? You may stumble, but God is guiding your steps.

IV. The **Reckoning** of Christ's Investment, Mt 25:24-30.

1. At Christ's coming He will reveal that some have a wrong view of Him.

Mt 25:24-25, "He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.'"

This man is mistaken. He sees God like the Pharisees: unmerciful, strict, hard, greedy. Is God like that? No! He's merciful. Christ has left heaven to come to earth. This servant has a wrong view of his master. But it's too late!

The emphasis of the parable draws attention to this third servant who fails to respond to the master's generosity.¹¹ He sees the Master as **unmerciful** and **greedy**!

It's clear that this parable is directed to those who are like the **Pharisees**, who have the message of God's love but **do nothing with it**.

A Wrong View of God

Sadly, this man, representing the Pharisees, had a very incorrect view of God. There are those who have the Master's treasure but do nothing with it. ***This man felt that no matter what he did with that talent it would never be good enough!***

People have this view of God as cruel, strict, and petulant. He charged his owner with unmerciful and dishonest.¹² The irony here is the Master says (sarcastically perhaps), even if I was, you should have invested your money.

Don't Wait – Don't Miss Out on Christ's Mercy!

Don't wait till Jesus comes to realize you've missed the mercy of Christ. Christ will save you now. Turn to Him now. If you wait, it will be too late. There is no greater thing to miss than the

¹⁰ *Little Is Much When God Is in It*, by Kittie L. Suffield, 1924.

¹¹ Wright, T. (2004). *Matthew for Everyone, Part 2: Chapters 16-28* (p. 138). London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

¹² MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1985). *Matthew* (Mt 25:19). Chicago: Moody Press.

mercy of Christ. Can you imagine, meeting the Lamb of God, seeing the nail prints in His hands. Seeing that He had laid down His life, and would have saved you, but you missed His mercy?

Don't think of Him as cruel and unmerciful. He is generous and filled with love and grace and enough mercy for ten thousand worlds!

2. If we are too LAZY to see Christ's Mercy, there is no hope at His coming.

Mt 25:26-27, "But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.'"

The **servant** was **wicked** in that he ignored the loving and generous character of his master, and he was **lazy and fearful**, doing NOTHING with the treasure His Master entrusted to him.

Lazy Servant!

How lazy are those who have the truth but do nothing with it! The slave refused to get beyond his own prejudices that the Master was hard and cruel. Let me ask, is God hard and cruel? No! He's merciful!

It is the servant that really has the problem. God is good. Mankind is corrupted and blind. And so the Master gives the slave the truth about his own soul.

The master has a far different estimation of the situation than the slave did. It is not his terror but his indolence that has driven the man. Rather than "good and faithful" (vv. 21, 23), he is "evil and lazy."¹³

Agreement with the Servant's Estimation?

By repeating the slave's charge against him, the master was not acknowledging its truthfulness. He rather said, in effect:

- You think I am a hard man, do you?
- Unmerciful?
- Greedy and not generous?
- Harvesting crops that do not belong to me?
- "If you really thought that, why did you not take this small fortune and put it in the bank, where it could at least draw interest?"

The Roman Banking System Similar to Ours

The ancient Roman Empire had a banking system that was in many respects like those of ours in modern times. The maximum loan rate was 12 percent interest, and the interest earned on deposits was probably about half that rate.

The servant with the one 75 pound talent of gold (\$1.25 MILLION) therefore could have reaped at least a 6 percent return by making virtually no effort at all.

The fact that he did not attempt even to earn simple **interest** on the money confirmed his total **irresponsibility** and his **indifference** to the master.¹⁴

The Lazy Servant shows us that False converts have a dead faith.

¹³ Ibid., Osborne, 927.

¹⁴ MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1985). *Matthew* (Mt 25:19). Chicago: Moody Press.

What was wrong with the servant's thinking? He thought just because he had the Master's treasure, he'd be ok.

**It's not enough to have the Master's treasure!
You must do something with it!**

No one can claim to be truly born-again unless they are working for the kingdom. Here is this man who receives such riches from the Master, but he does nothing with it. Listen, all true Christians have a living, vibrant, working faith.

We are to be watching worshipping, waiting and serving.

3. The Reckoning of the lazy servant shows the generosity of God.

Mt 25:28-29, “So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”

Oh, look at how the lazy, blind servant missed out on the generosity of God. We have really a reversal of expectation here. The man thought he would be rewarded for keeping the original investment, but instead it is stripped.

By his wicked love of ease, the man has forfeited his right to any reward.

Oh, how he could have had received so much more on his investment had he done something with it! “To everyone who has will more be given...” (vs. 29). God is generous. He's going to give us far more than we can imagine! More than we could ever deserve. Consider what is written about **how generous God is!**

Verses on God's Generosity

- St. Paul comments on this in **1 Corinthians 2:8-9**, “None of the rulers of this age understood this [the riches of knowing Christ], for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But, as it is written,
“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love him.”
- **Mt 5:5**, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”
- St. Paul says in **Romans 8:17**, as God's children we call out “Abba, Father...” “if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ...” He goes on to say some of the most generous and comforting words in all of Scripture: vs. 31-32, “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”

Christ: “I did it all for you!”

Look at the generosity of God, and realize, the only reckoning you want on the Day of Christ is for Christ to step in front of you with His nail pierced hands and say,

- “I did it all!”
- “I am your righteousness!”
- “I am your ‘exceeding great reward.’”

4. The Loss on that Day of Reckoning will far outweigh any difficulties of this life.

Mt 25:30, “And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

“For those who in the guise of serving Christ actually live for themselves, the payback has eternal ramifications. Such people lose not only their reward but their eternal destiny.”¹⁵

Conclusion

So I call on you Living Hope Bible Church – I am calling you to be “all in!” Do you see the generosity of God? Do you see all that He has given you? Or are you just content to do nothing?

¹⁵ Osborne, 928.