



# KAINOS MOMENT

Each week, set aside some time to reflect on this devotional as you prepare for your *Kainos* commitment.

## GENEROSITY IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

Randy Alcorn may be one of the most widely-read and biblically strong writers on the theology of eternal perspective. Many of us have likely read his piece *Treasure Principle* and possibly also his larger piece *Money, Possessions, and Eternity*. (If you haven't read either of these books, now would be a good time to load them onto your Kindle or pick up a hard copy from the bookstore!)

Both of these two books speak to the biblical truth that our life on earth is but a vapor but yet can have eternal significance if we'll let it. Both the Apostle Paul and Jesus spoke quite a bit about eternity, and while there is no percentage guidance on how much of our resources we should save on earth (the 10/10/80 plan isn't in the Bible!), there is a ton of principled guidance in Scripture on how we should think about our earthly resources in light of eternity.

Let's take a look at 1 Timothy 6 and begin with verses 6-10:

*"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."*

It's important to note here that Paul does not say money is a root of all kinds of evil; but rather that the LOVE of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Pastor Tim Keller often says, "Money isn't your idol; but money reveals what your idols are." If that were true about you, what would your money say that you value?

Paul continues on in, encouraging Timothy to flee from an earthly perspective and embrace an eternal perspective. He writes in verses 11-12:

*But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

One of the lines on the *Kainos* commitment card says, "Gifts from my/our stored resources." God is challenging ALL of us to consider what those might be. What resources that God has already given us — savings, possessions, stock, property are we holding onto for earthly purposes but could be better utilized if released to God for eternal purposes?

To be clear, having wealth isn't wrong or bad. Not in the slightest. Paul says to not put your hope in wealth; he never says not to have it. Wealth can be a powerful tool for the Kingdom when handled rightly and in a godly fashion. Paul writes in verses 17-19:

*"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."*

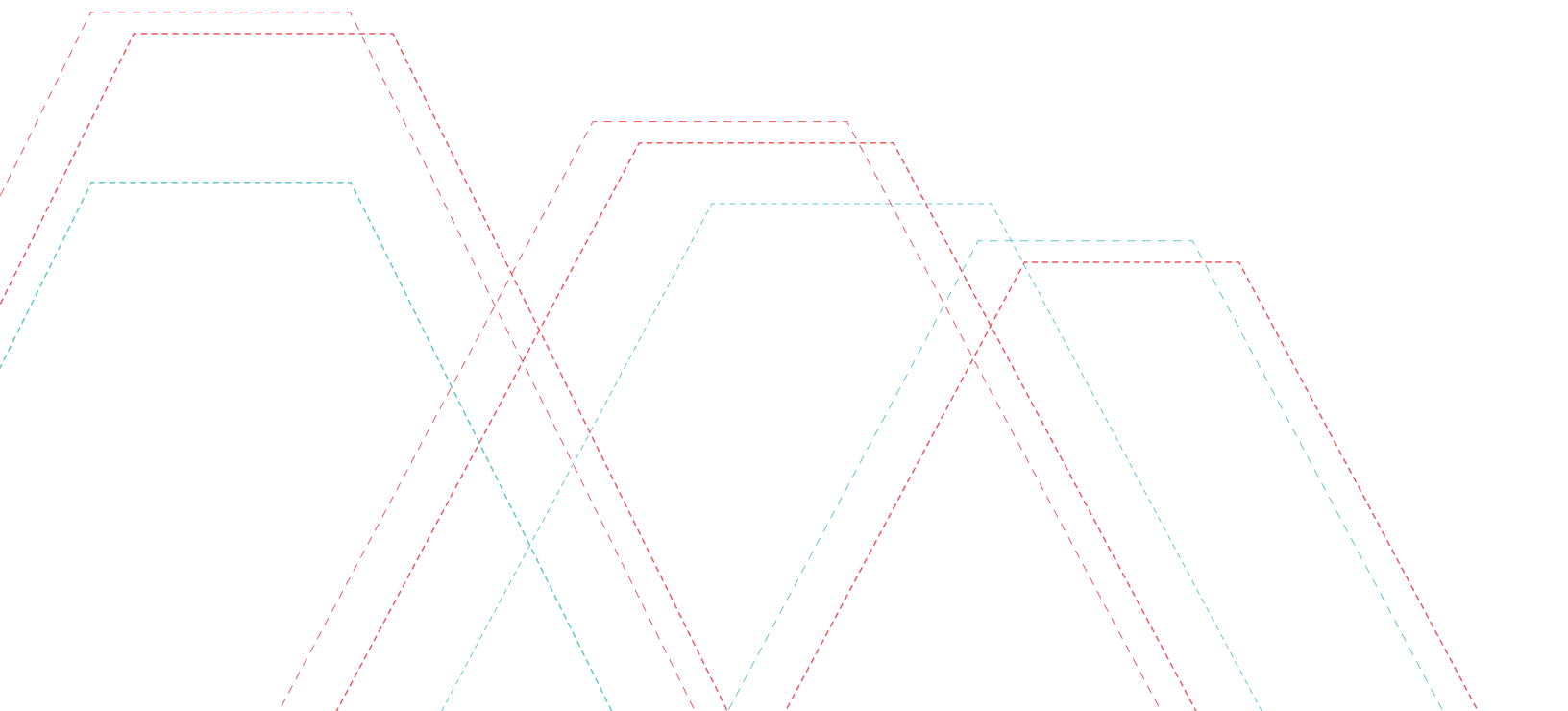
See, your home might be the largest home on the block or the smallest home on the block, and it doesn't matter. The question isn't "How large is your home?" but rather, "Are you stewarding your home? Are you honoring God with your home?" Are people IN your home on a regular basis who

don't yet know Jesus? Are you leveraging your home as a tool for eternity and not just for earth? You might have one car or you might have five cars, but do you have people IN your cars who don't know Jesus? Do you lend people your car(s) who don't know Jesus as a way of ministering to them and showing them God's love?

You might have a large savings account or a small savings account or NO savings account, and it doesn't matter — but are you asking God, "How can I use what you have given me to invest in the Church and in eternity and point others to you?"

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 8:12 when he is speaking to the early church in Corinth about generosity, *"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have."*

Too many of us are too focused on what we do NOT have, and it is keeping us from honoring God with what we DO have. God has given each of us some very specific things — some very specific resources — and He wants us to use them for His glory and the expanding of His kingdom? Are you? How better could we be doing this as we think about our *Kainos* commitment? Does our *Kainos* commitment reflect this?



# WE ARE AN UNFINISHED PEOPLE

SUN, NOV 14, 2021 | COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

## MEMORY VERSE

*“Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”*

Colossians 3:16-17 CSB

**READ:** Colossians 3:1-17

## INTRO:

The first two chapters of Colossians are mostly focused on doctrine, and in this chapter, Paul focuses on the practical application of the doctrines he has been teaching. The pagan religions of Paul's day said little or nothing about this – about personal morality. In the false teaching doctrine, a worshipper could bow before an idol, put his offering on the altar, and go back to live the same old life of sin. What a person believed had no direct relationship with how he behaved, and no one would condemn a person for his behavior.

So, the Christian faith brought in a whole new way of thinking – that what we believe has a very close connection with how we behave! Essentially, if we share the life of Christ, we must follow His example. He cannot live in us by His Spirit and yet permit us to behave in sin. In this section, Paul gives the Colossians instructions on how to truly live in Christ.

## UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT:

As the false teachers attacked the supremacy of Jesus, they made Him less than fully God and attempted to seduce believers into thinking that genuine spirituality is found in obtaining more knowledge or keeping more rules. Paul told us something different in chapter 2 of this letter – that Jesus IS fully God – and that as Christ followers we ARE given fullness in Him. Now in chapter 3, we learn the truth about our spirituality as Christ followers.

Paul tells these believers they have been “raised with Christ” (3:1). The reference here is to how we identify with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection. Paul refers to this earlier in chapter 2, vs. 12–13. Because of our identification with Jesus, we have been granted new life, detailed by Paul in this section. Paul tells us that since we have been raised, we are to “set our minds on things above” (3:2). In contrast to false teachers who did not teach the proper preeminence of Jesus, Paul reminds us that Jesus is seated in the position of honor, majesty, and authority.

Becoming “heavenly minded” requires us to “put to death” certain worldly pursuits (3:5–9) and to “put on the new self...according to the image of the Creator” (3:10); this, in Latin, is *Imago Dei*, the image of God which means our identity is not in a religion, race, color, or language but “in Christ” (3:11).

Worship has been defined as our mind's attention and heart's affection being tuned to God. One of the primary barriers to worship is “greed” (covetousness) which is equated with “idolatry” (3:5). As Jesus said, “You cannot serve both God and money” (Matthew 6:24b). Jesus provided the basis for this dichotomy in a previous verse, “for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21).

***You may think that God is not interested in raising money because He owns it all. However, God is vitally interested in raising His children in the image of Christ. As Randy Alcorn said, “Generosity is God's way of driving a stake into the heart of the spiritual monster called materialism.”***

# EXPLORE AND APPLY

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

### KEY POINTS, PART 1 - vs. 1-11

- Seek heavenly things.
- We died with Christ.
- We live in Christ.
- We are raised with Christ.
- We are hidden in Christ.
- We are glorified in Christ.

1. What does Paul teach about our position in Christ as a believer?
2. What is one aspect of your life that has changed since you became a believer?
3. Did you notice that Paul equates greed with idolatry? Why do you think he does this?

### KEY POINTS, PART 2 - vs. 12-17

- Embrace the grace of Christ.
- You are one of God's chosen ones.
- God set you apart.
- God loves you.
- God has forgiven you.
- Let the Peace of Christ, the Word of Christ, and the Name of Christ dwell in you richly.

1. What qualities does God want us to have, and what does each mean?
2. What is the evidence of letting Christ's peace rule in your heart? Do you feel that this currently characterizes you? Be as honest as you can.
3. How can we tell that Christ's Word is dwelling in us? Would others say this about you if asked?

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# THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOCUS:

## THE LORD PROVIDES

*"And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19*

Let's spend time acknowledging all the good things that have come from His hand for His purposes. Enter His presence today with thanksgiving for all He has entrusted to you. Make a list of all He has put into your hands and how He has supplied all your needs. Be careful not to think only of material things, but also spiritual blessings such as understanding, abilities, assignments, the Gospel, and people.

When Paul was encouraging generous living in 2 Corinthians 9: 8,10-11, he reminds us that *"And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work...Now the One who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will also provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us."*

Because of God's generosity to us, we can express our gratitude to Him through embracing a lifestyle of generosity. Do you believe God wants to bring you into a NEW level of living and giving?

*"Look, I am about to do something NEW; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19 (emphasis added)*

Regardless of your current reality, God wants to do a NEW work in you to accomplish His purposes and plan through you.

Meditate on these scriptures today, linger with the Lord in prayer, offer up these resources He has provided you and ask Him how He wants you to use what He has entrusted to you.