



January 11, 2019

Future Focus 2019

The Road to "Happy" ...

As we focus on the beginning of the New Year 2019, many of us think about new resolutions that can make our lives better. In Luke 18:18-30 when the rich young ruler asked our Lord, "*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*" the Lord answers with a paradox of His kingdom. If you want to be on the road to "*happy*", then "**sell everything you have, give it to the poor and then you will have treasure in heaven**". Does that make sense to you? *This is really counterintuitive to most of us.* Such is the life of faith. Are you experiencing this paradox of finding true joy and treasure in your life? The way to be happy is to "*give your money and time away*"! That's the wisdom of the bible. In a recent article written by Jordan Michael Smith and Christian Smith, the authors describe their findings on the correlation of generosity to happiness. People who are generous are happier and more fulfilled people. Did you know that's what the Bible teaches? In fact the Lord warns us in Luke 12:15 to watch out for the trap of believing wrongly that a man's life consists of the abundance of his possessions. We should all be keenly aware of the patterns of our culture that invite us to see materialism as the road to happiness. Maybe we should be asking not how much are we "*worth*" (*do we have*) but how much are we giving away? In looking at it this way, Jesus taught us that the widow who gave "*2 very small copper coins*" gave more than everyone else because "*she gave all she had*". (Luke 21:1-4)

As you focus on 2019, let me invite you to consider the road you are traveling. Are you traveling the road to "happy" the world's way? Or is it the Lord's way? The world says try "*to gain all you can*". The lord says make your goal "**to give all you can**". I am praying we find the joy and fulfillment that only the Lord can give as we follow after Him and His ways. And along the way, lets teach our children and those we love these lessons as well. For the Lord Jesus himself said, "*It is truly more blessed to give than receive*". (Acts 20:35)

Please come join in worship with us this Sunday. We will continue our **Future Focus 2019** as we consider "*How to get out of a rut*". This is a lesson drawn from Luke 18:35-43.

In His love,
Pastor Garry

"We are a **faith fellowship** of believers on our journey **together** with our Lord... meeting needs, mending hearts."