

What Are You Chasing?  
(By Rev. Anthony Menzel, January 16, 2022)

(Fall in love with the Lord Jesus  
Make Him your goal  
He is the best blessing forever.)

What are you running towards?

What is your goal?

A lot of people, both rich and poor, are running after money...  
A friend of mine sent me a cartoon showing a person running all their lives after money,  
and at the end of their life, they end up becoming a skeleton that falls into a grave,  
a skeleton of a person who never achieved the fulfillment they sought through money...

1 Timothy 6:6-21

**6** Now godliness with contentment is great gain. **7** For we brought nothing into *this* world, [d]and it is certain we can carry nothing out. **8** And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. **9** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. **10** For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

My wife likes a new Christian series called “The Chosen.” It’s all about the first disciples of Christ, those people who were a part of His ministry when the Lord Jesus walked the earth.

In one of the episodes, Mary the earthly mother of the Lord Jesus makes a profound comment:

She was not rich, but she was happy for most of her life...

True, lasting happiness does not come from material things...

True, lasting happiness comes from the Lord Jesus

Psalms 16:11

You will show me the path of life;

In Your presence *is* fullness of joy;  
At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

The only thing we can take with us for eternity is the love we share with the Lord Jesus and the love we share with others...

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

**8** Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part. **10** But when that which is [d]perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

**11** When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. **12** For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

**13** And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

We will not even take spiritual gifts to heaven...

It's amazing how much emphasis people put on prophecy and studying when prophecy and knowledge will pass away...

Prophecy can be a blessing...

If it is heeded, it can be used to advance Christ's Kingdom...

The Bible also says

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

Because you have rejected knowledge,

I also will reject you from being priest for Me;

Because you have forgotten the law of your God,

I also will forget your children.

So knowledge and prophecy and other spiritual gifts are important, but we always have to remember that they must always be used in a loving manner...

Galatians 5:6

**6** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

The foundation of the Christian faith is love.

Love that is a decision...

Love that lasts...

Not an emotion that is here one moment and gone the next...

So we circle back to 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

**4** Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not [b]puffed up; **5** does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, [c]thinks no evil; **6** does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**8** Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away.

Love is the foundation of our faith, but how often do we pray for God to bless to love God more and to love other people better?

I know that children are treasures...

They are precious gifts from God...

One of my frequent prayers is that I would be the best possible father to my daughters...

Are we asking God to make us the best possible children, parents, spouses, siblings, family in Christ, friends, and neighbors,

Or are we just focusing on excellence in our careers and our school work?

The Holy Spirit has shown me that I need to expand my own focus on being loving beyond my daughters...

The irony regarding the general lack of focus on love is that the way we can advance Christ's Kingdom is by loving...

Love may have different manifestations...

Sometimes it has to be tough...

Sometimes it is tender...

It may not be perfect, but it is always there...

So if we are not chasing after success in our jobs and our careers, what are we chasing after?

John 13:31-35

**31** So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. **32** If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately. **33** Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come,’ so now I say to you. **34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

It is profound to me that the Lord Jesus waited until Judas Iscariot left the Last Supper to mention the foundational truth of how people will know that we are followers of the Lord Jesus: by our love for one another.

The fact that the Lord Jesus waited until Judas Iscariot left indicates that it is very hard to betray the Lord Jesus if you are trying to walk in love towards Him and other people...

So what should we be running after?

If we circle back to 1 Timothy 6, we see a lot of the things we should really be running after as followers of Christ...

1 Timothy 6:11-14

**11** But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **13** I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before* Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, **14** that you keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ’s appearing,

God will take care of our material needs if we run after the things He wants us to...

Matthew 6:31-34

This is a very well-known passage, but the question becomes  
To what extent are we living according to what this passage says?

Sometimes God wants us to hear different facets about a topic, even if that appears repetitive to us, until we gain the proper depth of understanding regarding that topic and are actually applying it to our lives...

2 Timothy 4:2-8

**2** Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. **3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; **4** and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. **5** But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

### **Paul's Valedictory**

**6** For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **8** Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

So let us run after the eternal reward that Christ has for each of us,  
Remembering always that the best part of our reward is just being with God...

Revelation 21:3

**3** And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.