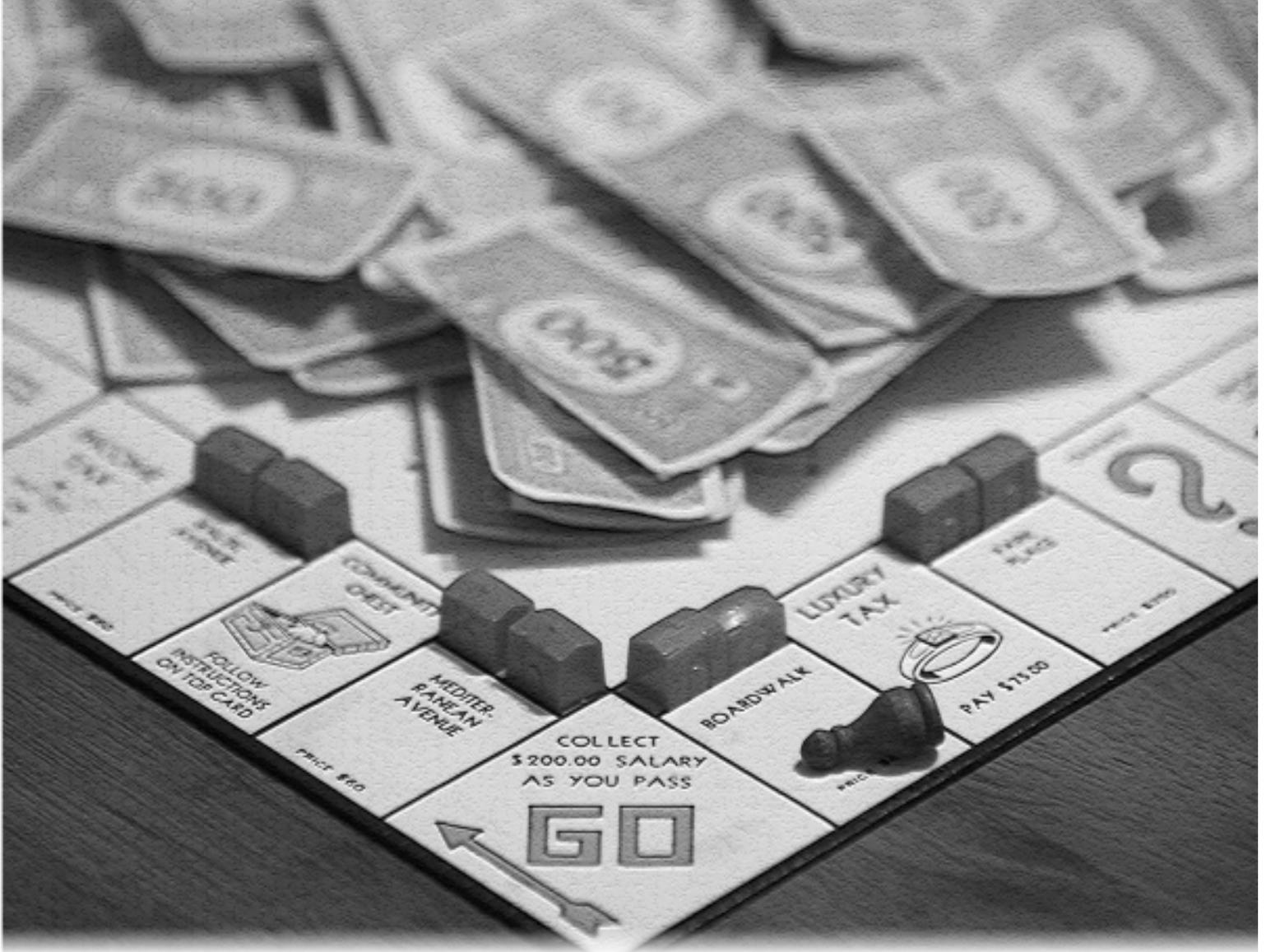




The Streetcorner

John 14:6



NO WAY OUT

The testimony of Wally Unger

My first memories that I have are sitting in the back seat of our old 1936 Ford with my other three siblings, all under the age of seven with everything we owned in a small two wheeled trailer. We were heading to Bible School in Southern Sask. with our father and mother. My father was this wonderful man of faith. God had called him to Bible School and even though he had four young children (and another on the way) and a wife to support and no money in the bank, he went.

So from an early age my father modeled for me, what living by faith meant. Taking by faith when God said “I shall supply all your needs.”

I grew up in Northern Sask. where we moved after my father graduated. I have no negative memories growing up. We lived in a small town of Weekes until grade seven and then moved to an even smaller town of Beatty, Sask. My work took me to Edmonton and then to Port Alberni. After a few years I decided I would try to find myself and quit my job and headed to Europe for a year and a half. Always looking to see if I could find meaning in life and what God perhaps had planned for my life.

On my return I ended up back in Edmonton where I met my wife and we were married. I bought into a business and this new venture took us to Vancouver nearly 35yrs ago. The business did

well and we lived in a beautiful house in a very nice subdivision. We had a son and a daughter who are the love of my life and did us proud. We went to the same church for 17 years and had many wonderful friends. So there we were: A great job, lots of money, beautiful house, lovely children, a great church, a place in Palm Springs, and many friends. Until the age of 55 my life was quite wonderful.

But just when I thought everything in my life was so secure, all that I knew was about to be turned upside-down.

My inner search to find out what God wanted for my life continued. Without understanding why at the time, God led me to a very dark place. I started to volunteer one night a week at Union Gospel Mission in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. This area is the slums of Vancouver. I used to drive through this area of town and I had no empathy for any of these people. I told myself that they were a bunch of lazy bums and had brought their misery on themselves. A scourge on our welfare system etc.

About that same time everything that had been going right in my life, started to go wrong. My financial adviser who I had been dealing with for many years, and trusted completely, started to get greedy and without me paying much attention put my investments into much riskier areas. He got me involved in condo projects that became leaky and would not rent out and I not only lost them but ended up with judgments against me. Everything began to collapse around me. My own family started to be affected, and my marriage fell apart. Everything was going from bad to worse and all hope was seemingly gone. However life still had to go on.

I was still going to Union Gospel Mission, trying to be a mentor to the drug addicts and homeless people. I started the Alpha program at UGM and a six month program called "From Bondage to Freedom". People were coming to Christ. One year we baptized forty four people, and yet I walked around with a mask on, and the mask had a big smile. Inside I was dying. Seemingly there was no way out of the mess that I found myself in. Nearly every day I just wanted to die. This went on week after week, month after month, year after year. In fact it went on for five years. I would sleep for an hour and wake up and worry for an hour. Wanting to run, but no place to run to. I had one friend, Fred Colburn, who walked with me every day for those five years. 1800 days in a row and literally saved my life. A better friend no one could ask for.

Then came that day, Oct. 15th 2001. I sat in the same chair I sat in every morning reading my Bible and praying. I never knew if my prayers were getting past the ceiling as I was in

darkness with no light at the end of the tunnel. That morning I cried out to God that I could not run my life anymore, but if He would take over my life and run it I would do whatever He asked me to do for the rest of my life. I forgave two people that I felt had destroyed my life. It was basically a total and irrevocable surrender of the rest of my life to Jesus Christ. God had to get me to the point where I could no longer rely on my bank account, my friends, my wife, and had to totally rely on Him.

What happened next was a huge miracle. I was flooded with this total peace, joy and love in my heart. The problems were all still there, but now they were not my problems anymore and the fear, despair and hopelessness were gone. "Cast all your cares on Me". Psalms 55:22. That night as I sat in my driveway in Fred's vehicle I told him it was over. He looked at me in disbelief and he could not believe it. After five years of hell in my life it was over just like that? I can honestly say that from

that day to this, I have not had one fear or despair in my life. Fred and I will be getting together on Oct 15th for breakfast, as we do every Oct 15th to celebrate 10 years of freedom from my addiction of making lots of money, keeping up with the Jones and retiring in Palm Springs.

God is now running my life. The main thing that I do now is work with young people from Church groups and Trinity Western University, training them for street ministry work, and then hitting the streets of the bad areas of town with hot chocolate and goodies, socks etc. We have a bus that is set up for training, so we are mobile and can go anywhere. Our group is called AOK. This stands for acts of kindness. Our song and motto we take from the group "Point of Grace".

We are the World

*To be **Your** voice*

*To be **Your** touch*

To give an answer

*To show **Your** love*

To hold out hope

To offer peace

*To shine **Your** light for everyone to see*

I love Jesus so much and want to serve Him every day for the rest of my life. I am finally on God's perfect plan for my life and I never want to walk off on my own plans again.

God Bless you all,

Wally Unger



“This I Believe”

by Ken Penner

I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU.

When Joshua took over the leadership of the Israelites after Moses died, God promised Joshua “I will never leave you or forsake you.” (Joshua 1:5 NIV). Over a thousand years later God spoke to us through the writer of Hebrews, “Never will I leave you, Never will I forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5 NIV). God is not in the business of leaving his children when they are down, when they have fallen or when they have doubts. It is us who turns away from God, it is our sin that separates us from fellowship from Him. When we come to him He will not cast us away. Jesus came to seek and to save those who are lost (Luke 19:10). He did not come to condemn but to save (John 3:17).

Once I met a lady who had made a commitment to Christ in the past and later fell into sin and turned her back on the Lord. She thought she had gone too far for God to allow her to ever follow him again. “I have sinned too much for God to ever take me back” she said. She was believing a lie, that satan would love for us to believe; a lie from the pits of hell. Once she realized that God still loved her, she surrendered to Christ and was truly set free to follow Christ with all the power of the Spirit of Christ within her. It is not the depth or severity of our sin, but our unwillingness to come to him in humility and repentance that keeps us from being set free (1 John 1:9 NIV).

In Wally’s testimony, in this issue of The Streetcorner, we see an example of one who went through some really rough times, trying to live life in his own way, yet God remained with him through thick and thin. Then, when he was ready to surrender his life completely to Christ, Christ met him there. Christ was able to occupy every area of his life and to use him in ways he could not previously have done because Wally was still trying to live this life on his own.

If you have never received Jesus as Saviour and Lord, he is waiting, turn to him and be saved. Do you think that God has forsaken you, or that you have gone too far and sinned too greatly for God to have mercy on you and to set you free? I have news for you, God loves you (John 3:16) and wants you to surrender all your sins, your cares, your burdens to Him. He will set you free! “Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.” This I believe!



by Mike Cunningham

TREASURES IN HEAVEN.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is there your heart will be also. No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” Matthew 6:19-21,24

These are powerful words spoken by Jesus, asking us to reflect on the affections of our hearts. What are the priorities that rule our choices, our time, and have our attention?

Wally, in his testimony, gives us a very good real-life example. He chased, and found the riches of this world and yet in his heart, he was bankrupt. It wasn't until he got onto God's plans that he found the meaning in life he craved. Have you, like me,

(Con't on pg.4)

("Treasures in Heaven" con't from pg. 3)

been let down by earthly stuff? Things that promised to deliver so much, just led us down a dead end road. I remember laying on the pavement, watching my prize motorcycle careen riderless into the ditch without me! Gone in one moment was my temporary treasure!

What does Jesus say? "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." If you are looking for an investment that comes with a real satisfaction guarantee, here it is. Get into the priorities of God. Look beyond the temporary stuff of this world, and choose to live for the higher and deeper and lasting purposes of God. And what are these?

Jesus gave this question a rather simple answer in the 22nd chapter of Matthew. First, love God with all your heart. Second, love others with all your heart (my paraphrase). To "get into God", Wally had to "get out of" himself. He had to surrender his own direction for his life, to submit to God's. He had to make God his treasure to find peace and fulfillment in his soul.

How is your investment portfolio looking these days? Today is a good day to put your stock into something that will last beyond any earthly crash. Let us seek God and, like Wally, begin investing in eternity. There is nothing with more guaranteed satisfaction, than that!

Luke 12:15-21 NIV

Then Jesus said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

"Then he said, This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."



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WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Bible and Its Authority

a) We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are the supreme and final authority in faith and conduct.

The Eternal Godhead

b) We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Man and His Need

c) We believe that man was created in the image of God; that through sin man incurred both spiritual and physical death. Consequently, man is totally depraved, alienated from God, under his righteous anger, and in need of the new birth.

Jesus Christ and His Work

d) We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary and is true God and true man.

e) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that all who believe in him are justified on the ground of his shed blood.

f) We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord Jesus Christ, in his ascension into heaven, his present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate and in his personal return.

Salvation for Sinners

g) We believe that by the grace of God, all who in repentance and faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ are born again by the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God. Such are sealed unto the day of redemption. Nevertheless, the believer is commanded to be filled with the Spirit, moment by moment.

The Future

h) We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, in the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and in the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost.

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