



A prayer to pray:

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Heavenly Father,

In order to make others glad in God with an everlasting gladness, my life must show that You are more precious than life. . . To do this I must make sacrificial life choices rooted in the assurance that magnifying Christ through generosity and mercy is more satisfying than selfishness. . . If Christ is an all-satisfying treasure and promises to provide all my needs, even through famine and nakedness, then to live as though I have all the same values as the world would betray You. . . How am I using our money and how do I feel about my possessions? . . . If I look like my life is devoted to getting and maintaining things, I will look like the world, and that will not make Christ look great. You will look like a religious side-interest that may be useful for escaping hell in the end, but doesn't make much difference in what I live and love here. You will not look like an all-satisfying treasure. And that will not make others glad in God. . . If I lived more like this, wouldn't I be asked more often about 'the reason for the hope that is in me'? Why don't people ask me about my hope? The answer is probably that I look as if I hope in the same things they do. My life doesn't look like it is on the Calvary road, stripped down for sacrificial love, serving others with the sweet assurance that I don't need to be rewarded in this life. Work in my heart to make it only thirst for and satisfied with You. Amen. Piper, *Don't Waste Your Life*, 107-109