

THE DASH: MAKING YOUR LIFE MATTER
Remember No U-Haul Behind A Hearse
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Introduction:

A. Happy New Year! It's a great time to evaluate your life and determine how you can make the most of your life. Our teaching series called The Dash will be helpful in leading you to a life of greater purpose and meaning.

Your tombstone will have two dates separated by a simple line: THE DASH. The first date will be your birth date and the second date will be your death date. But what really matters is the dash in between.

Your dash represents your story. The goal is to live a life of eternal significance rather than chasing temporary worldly success. To do this it's important to live with the end in mind.

¹³ "each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

¹⁴ "If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward." I Corinthians 3:13-14

B. The Dash Teaching Series will encourage you to look closely at your life and examine how you are living your dash. And this series will reveal how to intentionally live your dash focusing on things that matter and last.

Jan 11	Delay The Decay
Jan 18	Take God To Work
TODAY	Remember No U-Haul Behind A Hearse
Feb 1	Go All In For The Next Generation
Feb 8	Unwrap Your Gifts
Feb 15	Reach One More For Jesus

TEXT: Matthew 6:19-21

The phrase "No U-Haul Behind A Hearse" emphasizes the truth that you can't take your earthly possessions with you to heaven. The physical reality is that ALL you accumulate in your lifetime will be left behind at death. Therefore use your dash to invest in eternity by laying up treasures in heaven through giving.

B. God gives you some of His stuff to manage.

¹⁷ "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father..." James 1:17a

¹⁸ "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth..."

Deuteronomy 8:18a

C. God judges the management of His stuff.

² "Moreover, it is required in stewards that one be found faithful." I Corinthians 4:2

¹⁰ "But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."

Romans 14:10

D. God expects you to give from the first part of your stuff.

³³ "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

Matthew 6:33

⁹ "Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase;

¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty,"

Proverbs 3:9-10a

E. God expects you to give at least a tithe (10%) of your stuff to your local church.

¹⁰ "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:10

²³ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone." Matthew 23:23

REMEMBER NO U-HAUL BEHIND A HEARSE

HOW TO REMEMBER NO U-HAUL BEHIND A HEARSE

I. MAKE AN ETERNAL INVESTMENT

A. Avoid laying up treasures on earth.

- Why? Because earthly treasures are vulnerable to ruin, rust and robbers.

¹⁹ *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;"*
Matthew 6:19

- This does not mean you can't use money for personal needs and enjoyment. It does mean you should not hoard money.

⁸ *"But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."*
I Timothy 5:8

²⁴ *"Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God."*
Ecclesiastes 2:24

¹⁶ *"Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.*

¹⁷ *And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'*

¹⁸ *So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.*

¹⁹ *And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."'*

²⁰ *But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'*

²¹ *"So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*
Luke 12:16-21

B. Lay up treasure in heaven.

- Why? Because heavenly treasures are exempt from ruin, rust and robbers.

²⁰ *"but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."*

Matthew 6:20

- You lay up treasures in heaven through giving.

⁸ *"Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives."*
Hebrews 7:8

¹⁶ *"For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.*

¹⁷ *Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account."*
Philippians 4:16-17

II. DO A HEART ASSESSMENT

A. What you do with your money reveals the spiritual condition of your heart.

²¹ *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*
Matthew 6:21

B. The best way to do a heart assessment is examine your bank and credit card statements.

⁴⁰ *"Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the LORD;"*
Lamentations 3:40

III. FOLLOW BIBLICAL REQUIREMENTS

A. God owns all the stuff.

¹ *"The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein."*
Psalm 24:1

⁸ *"The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine," says the LORD of hosts."*
Haggai 2:8