



The Things of Earth: Treasuring God by Enjoying His Gifts

Joe Rigney, John Piper (Foreword)

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The world is full of good things.

Ice-cold lemonade. The laughter of children. College football. Scrambled eggs and crispy bacon. But what happens to these earthly pleasures when Jesus shows up? Do the things of earth grow strangely dim? Or does he shine in all that's fair?

In this book, Joe Rigney offers a breath of fresh air to Christians who are burdened by false standards, impossible expectations, and misguided notions of holiness. Steering a middle course between idolatry on the one hand and ingratitude on the other, this much-needed book reminds us that every good gift comes from the Father's hand, that God's blessings should drive us to worship and generosity, and that a passion for God's glory is as wide as the world.

The Things of Earth: Treasuring God by Enjoying His Gifts Details

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Pedro Pamplona says

Uma das melhores leituras desse ano, talvez a melhor! Recomendo demais esse livro para todos os cristãos.

Barnabas Piper says

Having grown up at the very epicenter of Christian Hedonism I found Joe Rigney's book to be a very helpful corrective of the weaknesses and support of the strengths. For those reformed people who follow the teachings of John Piper, this book is the counter-balance you need. It strengthens the weak points and emphasizes the under-emphasized, specifically as it pertains to things like guilt about wealth and enjoying the basic pleasures of life. But it is not a critical or antagonistic work. Quite the opposite, actually. It is a work that takes teachings Rigney believes in and makes them more palatable and balanced. It is especially helpful for the young, vigorous reformed folks who may lack a level head and a wise mind. Ringer provides both with much joy, a dash of humor, and a clear pleasure in the life God has given.

Leandro Guimarães says

Christian hedonism at its challenging best.

Gabriela Bevenuto says

Melhor livro de 2017!!! Não passem dessa vida sem ler esse livro! !

Christine Hoover says

This book addresses the question, "How do we approach the good things in life that God gives us without allowing them to become idols?" Joe Rigney does, I think, a great job in answering the question. I loved his chapter on wealth and the dangers of going to extremes. I also loved his chapter on seeing God in the everyday moments of life and letting our enjoyment of His gifts lead us to gratitude and worship.

Péricles Bessonni says

Such a wonderful book!

Josh Shelton says

Fantastic book! Really helped bring clarity to my main perplexing question in life and theology

Read again in 2016 with my wife, easily in my top 10-15 all time

Rachel says

I actually really enjoyed this book. I'm not normally a Piper fan, but this book strikes at the heart of pietism. While there could have been more expanded on, and while there were a few things I didn't wholly agree with, I learned a lot from it, and it speaks to a topic that is rarely addressed. I am going to be a better Christian, a more thankful Christian, a more joyful Christian for having read it. A must read.

Mark Sylvester says

If I had to summarize this book up in one word, I'd say it was: balanced. Within his biblical worldview, Rigney offered a very helpful perspective on how a Christian ought to view, enjoy, and pursue the things of the earth. I though his treatment on sovereignty and responsibility was gracious, balanced, and supported substantially by scripture. As well, the overarching idea that God is glorified in our enjoyment of the things he's created and gives to us is super helpful! Though idolatry and abuse are real and devastating, the answer is not to throw the baby out with the bath water, but to wisely and carefully pursue the things God has created for us to enjoy. There was slower parts of the book for sure, and a number of tangents that I don't think were always relevant to the main point, but the book was doctrinal, practical, pithy, and offered a fresh perspective on a topic I think Christians have a hard time believing without feeling a sense of guilt.

Amy Kannel says

An excellent, beautiful book. It's crammed with rich theology that will make your head spin (in a good way!), yet also full of intensely practical and down-to-earth insights and wisdom. The tone is so winsome—warm, humble, empathetic, contagiously excited about who God is and what He gives. Rigney writes in a clear, compelling way, taking aim at false guilt and casting a vision for how to live abundantly and generously.

If you've ever feared that maybe you love your blessings too much, or if you've ever wondered how to navigate a healthy, godly balance between enjoying earthly pleasures and sacrificing for the sake of the gospel, or if you've struggled with how to respond when blessings are lost, you'll find this book immensely helpful.

The book provides an especially valuable counterbalance to John Piper's teaching (which Piper himself says in the foreword), but I certainly wouldn't limit my recommendation to those who are familiar with Piper. It's an important, God-centered perspective to for anyone to take to heart, a way to think rightly in the midst of frequent Christian calls for gratitude or radical self-denial.

Alan Alexandrino says

Um chamado para abraçarmos a nossa condição de criatura, recebendo com alegria e gratidão tudo aquilo que O Deus triúno nos proporciona. Excelente livro!

Marcel says

Ótimo livro, que trata de como podemos nos deleitar em Deus, a partir das coisas que ele criou, sem sermos idólatras ou ascéticos.

Embora a argumentação do autor seja bastante robusta, o ponto alto deste livro é o capítulo 8, em que o texto argumentativo dá lugar a pequenas narrações do cotidiano do autor, as quais exaltam a glória de Deus nas coisas simples do dia a dia.

Recomendo!

Suzannah says

Wow. What a book. WHAT a book.

The thesis of Rigney's book is one of those fairly simple things that can often be surprisingly controversial: We do not have to choose between a love of our glorious and sovereign God, and a love of his delectable gifts. Approached rightly, argues Rigney, (with many quotations from all the people I read, from ND Wilson to Charles Williams) there is no right love of God without a deep, glad and unstinting love for his creation. Rather, each feeds the other. When one skyrockets, the other is dragged along with it; lawful earthly pleasure IS heavenly pleasure.

If you are an orthodox Christian, you should know all this stuff already. But bad theology besets us, and it's hard not to get confused by the tension between what Williams calls the "way of Affirmation of Images" and the "way of Denial of Images" - "this is Thou, and also this is not Thou." God reveals himself to us in everything, and yet nothing really fully reveals him. How then to handle the tension? This book is a thoroughly illuminating and freeing, to say nothing of Biblical, answer to many of these questions. Reading it was a gladdening, encouraging experience.

I did have a complaint. I thought there was too much emphasis on receiving gifts, and too little emphasis on employing them in our mission *on the earth*. There are some wonderful moments, like the one where Rigney takes a moment to say that being made in the image of God is less about who we are than it is about what we do - our dominion work as priests, prophets, and kings of creation. But his ultimate emphasis is more on contemplation of God than it is on shaping the world. Christianity is not just about getting to heaven and the new Earth after we die, it's also about teaching the nations to obey all of Christ's commandments. I would have liked to have seen Rigney apply his formidable theological acumen, not just to the tension between earthly and heavenly pleasures, but also to the tension between our earthly and our heavenly hopes: we remember that we are strangers in this world, but we pray that "thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on

earth as it is in heaven" in the hope and expectation that our prayer will be answered.

Apart from that, this book was fantastic in lots of ways. Get a copy, read it, and then loan it to all the fusers you know who labour under a burden of false guilt.

Felipe Barnabé says

Excelente! Leitura fácil e leve, porém com um conteúdo de altíssimo nível. Recomendo. Um dos melhores que li esse ano.

Lucas Bragança says

Que livro!! Excelente! Quer aprender a ser mais agradecido? Leia este livro! Quer aprender a desfrutar daquilo que Deus te dá da melhor forma? Leia este livro! Quer ver a graça de Deus até nas perdas? Leia este livro! Seja feliz, se alegre muito, sem remorsos, tudo isso pra glória de Deus!

Aaron Ventura says

Probably the best book I have read this year. Rigney slays.

Rita says

This book moved me to worship the Giver of every good gift. And this book is one of those gifts to be enjoyed and savored. Simple, yet profound. Deeply theological, yet understandable. Beautiful, just beautiful. Now I really want to go to the beach and watch a sunset while sipping a glass of wine.

Ryan Boomershine says

"What happens to the earthly pleasures when Jesus shows-up? Do the things of earth grow strangely dim? Or does he shine in all that's fair?"

This book very quickly became one of my favorite theology books I've read (and that is quite a pile). While rich in theology and Scripture, it is a beautiful book abundant in appealing application and is *immensely* needful in today's applications of Christianity, when Christians are suffering from deep misunderstanding of how to relate to the creation and culture around them, both seeking to repudiate it or seeking to embrace it all for it's own sake and their own liberty.

Rigney's strongest influences mirror my own (though I don't understand Lewis like I would like), and I see their influential fingerprints all over the book.

This book was an immense delight and of capital importance in my spiritual walk, the application of my faith, demonstration of it and the better elucidation of it. I was especially grateful for the inclusion of the last two chapters which dwell on the reality of loss and then the brief walk through Psalm 16 (one of the two Psalms on which I've most meditated during my life).

For the great seas of nations who have relished in the realities of Desiring God, this book is a natural, practical application of that book.

Thank you, Joe.

"So if you are awash in a sea of God's gifts, dive in and savor them. Relish all there is to relish in them as a means of expanding your mind and heart to know God more deeply. Receive God's gifts gladly, give thanks for them, and be as generous with others as God has been with you. And if you are in the midst of losing something or someone precious to you, don't detach. Press in. God is your only comfort, and he is present in your loss in ways that you cannot fathom if you run from the desire the longing and the pain."

Becky says

I am typically a little selfish with 5-star ratings, but I would give this book a 6 if I could. I admit that it may have a lot to do with the fact that this subject matter resonates so deeply with me that I tend to enjoy most any writing that sets my mind on this topic. But the beauty of this book is not that the author simply offers his opinions or even multiple strong arguments to support them. His support is plainly and simply careful consideration of scripture and knowledge of a loving God who delights in giving his children gifts. I enjoyed every word of this.

Daniel Piva says

É um livro realmente fascinante, pelas conexões, e aplicações que o autor faz, principalmente, de muitos conceitos já conhecidos dos evangélicos.

É uma ótima sequência para o livro Notas da Xícara Maluca.

Ainda escreverei mais sobre ele. Quero agora, maturar um pouco mais sobre o que li, e fazer considerações mais abalizadas.

De qualquer forma, já o recomendo.
