



The Things of Earth: Treasuring God by Enjoying His Gifts

By Joe Rigney



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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.



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Editorial Review

Review

"If there is an evangelical Christian alive today who has thought and written more biblically, more deeply, more creatively, or more practically about the proper enjoyment of creation and culture, I don't know who it is . . . This book has been very helpful to me. I mean that personally. I think I will be a better father and husband and friend and leader because of it."

—**John Piper**, Founder, desiringGod.org; Chancellor, Bethlehem College and Seminary

"We are probably familiar with the proverb about the overly pious fellow, the one who is so heavenly minded he is no earthly good. And we have seen the opposite so many times that we don't even need a proverb for it—the carnal thinker who is so earthly minded he is no heavenly good. And no earthly good either, as it turns out. The hardest thing to achieve on this subject is balance, but it is a difficult feat that Rigney has accomplished. Buy this book. Make it one of your earthly possessions. Read it to find out what that is supposed to mean."

—**Douglas Wilson**, Senior Fellow of Theology, New St. Andrews College; Pastor, Christ Church, Moscow, Idaho

"Reading this will be a sweet moment of profound liberation for many. With wisdom and verve, Rigney shows how we can worship our creator through the enjoyment of his creation. This is going to make a lot of Christians happier in Christ—and more attractively Christlike."

—**Michael Reeves**, Director of Union and Senior Lecturer, Wales Evangelical School of Theology; author, *Delighting in the Trinity*, *The Unquenchable Flame* and *Rejoicing in Christ*

"This book makes me want to watch the Olympics while eating a pumpkin crunch cake, rejoicing in the God who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. But part of me is a little wary of the indulgent pecan crunchiness and astonishing athletic feats. What if my heart gets lost in these things? If you're familiar with that hesitation, this book is for you. We were made to take in all the fullness of the intergalactic glory of the triune God. This book is a trustworthy guide to help your gaze follow along the scattered beams up to the sun."

—**Gloria Furman**, Pastor's wife, Redeemer Church of Dubai; mother of four; author, *Glimpses of Grace* and *Treasuring Christ When Your Hands Are Full*

"I am always amazed at how God reveals his character to his children. This book has radically changed the way I view the Giver of every good and perfect gift. What's more, it has helped me to really enjoy *him* through the many blessings he has lavished on me."

—**Shane Everett**, singer/songwriter, Shane and Shane

"It is not easy to understand how I can love God with all my heart, but also love the world he has made. God's Word encourages us to love the creation (Psalm 19), but also to love not the world (1 John 2:15–17). Rigney is really helpful to those wrestling with this kind of question, and he helps us with a lively and engaging style. This book clarifies and builds upon John Piper's Christian Hedonism. I heartily recommend it."

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About the Author

Joe Rigney (MA, Bethlehem College and Seminary) is assistant professor of theology and Christian worldview at Bethlehem College and Seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is the author of *Live Like a Narnian: Christian Discipleship in C.S. Lewis's Chronicles* and *The Things of Earth: Treasuring God by Enjoying His Gifts*. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

John Piper (DTheol, University of Munich) is the founder and teacher of desiringGod.org and the chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary. He served for 33 years as the senior pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and is the author of more than 50 books, including *Desiring God*, *Don't Waste Your Life*, *This Momentary Marriage*, *Bloodlines*, and *Does God Desire All to Be Saved?*

Users Review

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