

## THE PROPER LAYING UP OF TREASURE

### INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Matthew 6:19-23](#). From Roy H. Enoch (07-04-1993).
- B. There is great interest in the world in savings and investment.
  - 1. Factors discussed focuses on security, growth and availability.
  - 2. People try to acquire and save what they value the most.
  - 3. What and how much we have saved for ourselves is a good indicator of our character.
- C. Jesus gave a very difficult example in this area (Mt. 8:19,20).
  - 1. Jesus required great sacrifice from the rich young ruler (Mt. 19:11).
  - 2. Jesus was supported in His ministry by some godly women (Lk. 8:2,3).
  - 3. In our text Jesus commands spiritual priorities.
- D. The word here translated "treasure" means wealth or what we value.
  - 1. It seems to mean what we put first or value the most.
  - 2. It is referred to as "mammon" in Mt. 6:24.
    - a. *Strongs* defines it as "wealth" or "avarice" (greed).
    - b. It is what we crave or seek the most.
    - c. Jesus only lists two choices: God or wealth.
  - 3. Therefore we choose between God and material things.
- E. In our study of the text we will note Jesus' priorities:
  - 1. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth."
  - 2. "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."
  - 3. We will study some things we should treasure.

### I. "DO NOT LAY UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES ON EARTH."

- A. Jesus tells us to neither love nor seek earthly treasures.
  - 1. It is wrong to desire property for our family (1Tim. 5:8; Eph. 4:28).
  - 2. Material things cannot be our "treasures": the things that we put first in our lives.
    - a. To put them first or to love them is dangerous (1Tim. 6:10).
    - b. This love causes one to trust in these riches (Lk. 12:13-21).
- B. Jesus gives several reasons for not laying up treasures on earth.
  - 1. They are uncertain: there are too many ways to lose them (Mt. 6:19).
  - 2. God does not accept us unless we put Him first in love.
    - a. Religious service can condemn us if not sincere (Mt. 23).
    - b. Irregular or half hearted service is lukewarmness (Rev. 3:16).
    - c. The devil will accept part of our service because God will not.
  - 3. We should not lay up treasure on earth because our heart will be where our treasure is. It is our "treasure" that we depend on for happiness.

### II. "LAY UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN."

- A. Jesus is telling us to love, seek, trust, or "hoard" spiritual treasures.
- B. He gives some reasons for "hoarding" heavenly treasures.
  - 1. That will put our heart in heaven.
    - a. Our chief interests will be for spiritual things.
    - b. We will put God's work and interests first.
  - 2. Jesus describes this focused dedication as having a "single eye" or healthy eye.
    - a. If our focus is on God and not clouded by the world, our vision is clear.
    - b. If our vision is diseased by sin, we do not see God very clearly and are hindered.
  - 3. We cannot serve God and the world (Mt. 6:24).
    - a. We cannot love God and love the world (1Jo. 2:15).

- b. Our devotion and focus must be on God.

#### IV. LET US CONSIDER SOME OF THE THINGS WE SHOULD TREASURE.

- A. We should treasure our live on the earth.
  - 1. We should value it as an opportunity to prepare for eternity (Heb. 9:27; 2Cor. 5:10).
  - 2. We should value the time that we have. Each moment is precious because we do not know if we will have any more (Jas. 4:14).
  - 3. Each should treasure the opportunities for great service (Col. 3:23).
- B. Each person should "treasure" the truth.
  - 1. It saves us (Jn. 8:31,32).
  - 2. False doctrine will condemn us (2Th. 2:10-12).
  - 3. We must be willing to pay any price for the truth (Prov. 23:23).
- C. Every person should "treasure" his influence.
  - 1. Our lives are the greatest preaching done (2Cor. 3:1,2).
  - 2. Husbands and wives can lead non-Xian spouses by example (1Pet. 3:1,2).
- D. Every one should "treasure" his body.
  - 1. We should each take care of our body, but not preoccupied w/ it (1Tim. 4:8).
  - 2. We should keep our bodies pure from the works of the flesh.
- E. Each one should "treasure" his mind.
  - 1. We should value our mind enough to focus on spiritual things (Col. 3:1,2).
  - 2. We should fill our mind w/wholesome things (Phil. 4:8).
  - 3. Sins that defile a man comes from the mind, or heart (Mt. 15:19).
- F. Each person should "treasure" his soul. It is worth more than the world (Mt. 16:26).
- G. Each person should "treasure" his own family.
  - 1. Each should honor his father and mother (Eph. 6:2).
  - 2. We should live so that we will not bring shame on either our earthly or spiritual family.
- H. Each should "treasure" the one, true church which X purchased w/His blood (Ac. 20:28).
  - 1. He had promised to build it before His death (Mt. 16:16).
  - 2. It is His body and He is its head.
- I. Each should "treasure" his own conscience.
  - 1. It is given by God and urges one to do what he thinks is right.
  - 2. It should be trained by God's word so that it will be a reliable guide.
- J. Each person should "treasure" his own eternal destiny.
  - 1. Jesus taught that each will have an eternal destiny (Jn. 5:28,29; Mt. 25:46).
  - 2. Everyone will receive a new spiritual body in the resurrection (1Cor. 15:42-44).

#### CONCLUSION.

- A. Summary: Every person seeks some "treasure." Every person serves either an earthly god or the God of heaven. Every person is either laying up treasure on earth or in heaven--not both.
- B. Appeal: May each one of us lay up treasures for himself in heaven.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.