

TREASURES

Int.

1. Aim: To show the need to lay up treasures in heaven not on earth.
2. Treasures = something of great value - wealth in abundance, costly things- things which are excellent and precious in our own eyes
3. The desire to get and store up things of value is normal. But we must be careful about "things" of this earth.
 - a. God created this earth for our use and enjoyment while we are living here. - Gen. 1&2
 - b. But remember we only use these things - in reality we do not own anything - Ps. 24:1
 - c. Lk. 12:15 - our life is not measured by the abundance of things we possess.
4. Jesus is here giving some advice about the proper way to conduct our life in regard to possessions

Discussion

I. WARNING

- A. Lay not up = to gather together, to hoard or heap up against the future
 1. Two kinds of treasures:
 - a. Clothes - furs, silks
 - b. Coins and precious metals - gold and silver
 2. These treasures do not last:
 - a. Why? They decay
 - (1) Moths == Clothes - moths destroy - holes in garments make them useless -
throw away
 - (2) Rusts. Coins- silver or gold - rusts - decay

(3) Thieves - steal

B. Pro. 23:5 "...riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven."

1. There is no place to store treasures here on this earth.
2. Even if we succeed in keeping the moth and rust and thieves away they are all going to be destroyed.
3. Floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, volcanoes, wars, illness -- many other things can take earthly goods away
4. In fact this earth is going to be destroyed - II Pet.3:10 "...the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."
5. You think you have treasures and in reality you do not have them.
6. Jas. 5:1-3

C. Earthly goods cannot satisfy

1. A person who is a collector of any certain item is never satisfied - they always want more and seek more
2. If a person is collecting "thousands" or "millions" of dollars he is never satisfied. If he collects a certain amount he just wants to collect more.
3. The pursuit of earthly treasures is a disease that feeds and increases upon itself.

D. I Tim. 6:7-10

E. Christ did not forbid:

1. Being a hard worker -- Rm. 12:11 "not slothful in business"
2. Possession of goods
 - a. We of course must obtain them in an honest way

- b. God prospered Abraham, Job and David
- 3. Storing up for our own future use
 - a. I Tim. 5:8
 - b. II Cor. 12:14
 - c. Pro. 6:6-8
- F. Christ was forbidding:
 - 1. Seeking for excessive worldly wealth - Lk.12:15
 - 2. Seeking only after worldly riches and goods, not the true riches - Lk. 12:21 "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."
 - 3. Idolatry - Col. 3:5
- G. Possessions must be possessed, they must not possess their owners

II. A COMMAND

- A. Lay Up treasures in heaven -
 - 1. How do we do that?
 - 2. Going about doing good as Jesus Did
 - a. Acts 10:48
 - b. Mt. 10:42 - even a cup of cold water
 - c. Gal. 6:10
 - 3. Prayers - Acts 10:2&4
 - 4. Mt. 6:33 - seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness
 - 5. Living as a Christian - Jas. 1:27
 - 6. Winning Souls - Mk.16:15

B. These treasures are secure - Heaven is the only safe place in which to deposit our riches

1. Moths cannot eat the garments of righteousness - Good deeds of righteousness cannot be destroyed
2. Rust does not consume treasures laid up in heaven -
3. Thieves cannot break through and steal our heavenly inheritance - I Pet. 1:3,4
4. Jn. 6:27 "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed."
5. Mt. 19:29
6. Lk.12:33

Conclusion

1. Where we place our treasure is where we find our heart -
 - a. On earth
 - b. Or in Heaven
2. This is the main reason for laying up treasures in heaven.
3. If we have our treasures stored on this earth our heart will be anchored to this earth.
4. If we have our treasures stored in heaven we will have our heart anchored there.
5. The earth and all its treasures will pass away - so will the person who has his treasures here.
6. Heaven will last forever. If we have our treasures there we will never lose them.

7. There is no investment on earth so safe, so permanent, or that pays so good dividends as laying up treasures in heaven. It is the only investment on earth that will pay dividends in the next world.
8. Col. 3:2 - "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."
 - a. No man ever went to heaven whose heart was not already there
 - b. Where is your heart?

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