

Where Is Your Heart?

by David McWilliams

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

Jesus points out that treasure on earth can easily be destroyed or stolen. It is only temporary. However, treasure placed in heaven is secure. It will not be destroyed. God will guard it (2 Timothy 1:12).

Proverbs 23:4-5 describes the pitfalls of riches. *“Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, cease from your consideration of it. When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.”*

In Matthew 19:16-22, Jesus encountered a young man whose treasure, and therefore his heart, was here on earth. Jesus told him that to be complete he needed to *“sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”* The young man rejected Jesus because his confidence in life was based on his great possessions. As Jesus stated in Mark 10:24, *“how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!”*

Paul explains how to properly handle riches in 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Those who are rich are to trust in God, not uncertain riches. They are to do good with their wealth, thereby laying up treasure in heaven. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Jews who returned to Jerusalem from Babylonian captivity experienced the futility of putting earthly wealth above service to God. Instead of rebuilding the temple, they spent their energies on building luxurious homes for themselves. God pointed out their folly. *“You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?” says the Lord of hosts. “Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house” (Haggai 1:9).* They were trying to lay up their treasure here on earth, but God was bringing it to nothing.

Where is your heart, on earth or in heaven? Your heart will be wherever you put your treasure. If your focus is on this world and material wealth, you will have nothing when this life is over. But if your focus is spiritual, serving God and those around you, God will grant you the true riches of heaven when this life is over.

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