

## Laying Up Treasure

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by Wayne Goff

Jesus carefully instructed His disciples to “*lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven*” (Matt. 6:20). He gave two solemn reasons for doing so: (1) **Permanence**; (2) **Heart**.

First, **permanence** must be considered. What good is it if you lay up treasures just to have them destroyed and stolen? The answer is obvious. Your hard work is all in vain. Moth, rust, and thieves can take away everything for which you have worked and you will have nothing.

Second, the **heart** must be considered. If we lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, then our heart will follow, Matthew 6:21. Our time on earth is our *opportunity* to think, believe, accept and obey. Some of us will put in a superficial effort in the hopes that such will be sufficient. But in the end, we will be lost *because our heart was not in it!*

God commands us to love Him with all of our heart. Jesus said our heart will be in heaven if that is where we place our treasure. But nobody can *affect* our heart except us! We make the decision.

The apostle Paul learned to love God with all of his heart, and at the end of his life he wrote to Timothy: “*...for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day*” (2 Tim. 1:12). He knew that God would **keep** what Paul had **committed** to Him! What Paul had “*committed*” to God is his treasure. The Greek word means “deposit.” God kept it safely for Paul. Moth, rust, and thieves could not touch it!

The rich are charged to trust “*in the living God*” (1 Tim. 6:17). When they do, then they will store “*up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life*” (1 Tim. 6:19). How is that done? Paul explained in verse 18 that they should “*do good, ... be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share.*” Selfless service to others and a willingness to share one’s wealth sums it up succinctly.

Dear reader, are you laying up treasure in heaven? I pray to God that you and I will do so now, while we can, so that we can have a heart for God and an eternal reward.

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