

# Storing up treasures in Heaven

## (Living our lives with eternity in mind)

**Jesus Himself said**, “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**)

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” (**Matthew 6:24**)

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (**Matthew 6:31-33**)

- **We have one life to make an eternal difference in the lives of others and to store up treasures in heaven**
- **There are however many things that can prevent us from living wholeheartedly for Jesus Christ. These include:**
  - i. Our fears, (a fear of lack, a fear of being rejected for our faith, a fear of failure, a fear of man, to name just a few)
  - ii. The negative influences of those around us
  - iii. The opinions of others (peer group pressure)
  - iv. The many temptations and distractions in the world around us that can steal our affections for Jesus
  - v. Having unconfessed sin in our lives
  - vi. Becoming too busy in life to spend quality time with the Lord
  - vii. Because of discouragement from being consistently rejected when sharing our faith, and
  - viii. From simply not being prepared to count the cost of being a true disciple of Jesus Christ

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” **(2 Timothy 3:1-5)**

- **There are many reasons why it is so important that we continually choose to live for the Kingdom cause in the perilous times that we are now living in. These include:**

- i. **It will greatly determine the degree to which our children live for the Lord in the days to come**
- ii. **It will determine the rewards that we receive from the Lord when He returns**

**Jesus Himself said,** “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” **(Matthew 16:27)**

- iii. **It will help us to finish our Christian walk well. We are now living in increasingly ungodly and lawless times**

**Jesus Himself said in relation to the times that we are now living in,** “And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”  
**(Matthew 24:10-13)**

- iv. We will always be prepared for and ready for the rapture of all true believers**

**Jesus Himself wrote,**

“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” **(Luke 21:34-36)**

- v. It will cause our lives to make a great eternal difference in the lives of many.** We all have a ministry and missions field (People that we know, work colleagues, friends and neighbours that we can help lead to Christ)

**Jesus Himself said,**

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.” **(John 12:24-26)**

**The eternal destinies of others are connected to us being faithful in fulfilling God’s plan for our life**

**EVERY believer has an important part to play in the Body of Christ. We all need one another**

**And**

**vi. It is the key to embracing the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of**

**Jesus Himself said,** “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”  
**(John 10:10)**

- **We are most fulfilled in our Christian walk when we are faithful in flowing in our own unique gifts and calling**
- **It is our passion for God and our enthusiasm in living for Him that makes our witness to others effective and credible (Matthew 5:16)**
- **There is a great joy (as distinct from happiness) that comes from flowing in God’s plan for our life and in using our gifts and talents for the Kingdom Cause**

**Jesus made this clear in His parable of the talents;**

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man travelling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

“Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his Lord’s money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.”  
**(Matthew 25:14-19)**

“So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ “His Lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.’”

“He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ “His Lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.’”  
**(Matthew 25:20-23)**

- There is a big difference between our career and our calling. For many years I was a salesman which enabled me to also effectively flow in my evangelism calling
- Whilst I was making money in my career I was also winning souls to Christ as I flowed in my gifts and calling
- For one week my focus was too much on the sales. At the end of that week I was depressed even though I had made the same amount of money for the week
- I asked the Lord why I was feeling so flat. He simply said, “Because I had not been flowing in my calling and leading people to Christ”
- IT IS ONLY IN LIVING FOR THE KINGDOM CAUSE THAT WE WILL CONSISTENTLY EXPERIENCE THE LIFE AND LIFE MORE ABUNDANTLY THAT JESUS SPOKE OF

- **There is a world in desperate need of salvation. The harvest truly is ripe but the labourers are few**

**Jesus Himself said,** “Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” (**John 4:35**)

- **As Christians we have been given the ministry of reconciliation and the responsibility and privilege of helping others to also find Christ.**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” (**2 Corinthians 5:18-20**)

- **The world that we live in five years from now, will in large part be the outcome of the degree to which the body of Christ works together NOW to reach out to the unbelievers in this nation to help lead them to Christ.**
- **The values of the world are now so different to our Christian bible based values**
- **For this reason we need to see revival in the body of Christ so that we can see the church making a great impact in our world as we help to see Kingdom values being established in our communities through the way that we live our lives as Christians**

**Jesus Himself said,**

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” **(Matthew 5:13-16)**

- **If ever there is a time to break open our lives for the cause of Christ it is NOW as we see the imminent rapture of all true believers (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17) prior to Jesus returning back to earth to set up His Millennium reign at the end of the great tribulation**
- **We have one gift of life to leave an eternal legacy in our world through the way that we live our life for Christ and the Kingdom Cause**
- **We come into the world with nothing and we can certainly take nothing with us when we die and go to be with the Lord**
- **It is only the eternal things that we have done here on earth that will count when we get to heaven**
- **So for this reason our main focus here on earth should be on fully utilising our gifts and talents to accomplish God's plan for our life here on earth and in storing up treasures in heaven**

- **God has a unique plan for EVERY believer's life**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (**Ephesians 2:10**)

- **It is as we all work together flowing in our own unique gifts and callings and as we walk together in love and unity that the body of Christ begins to make an impact on our world.**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself IN LOVE.” (**Ephesians 4:16**)

**Jesus also said,** “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (**John 13:34-35**)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Living with eternity in mind affects the way that we prioritise the use our time, how we use our resources and the choices that we make in life</b></li></ul>
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- **But Jesus promised us that if we put the things of the Kingdom first in our life all that we NEED in life shall be added to us.**

**I will again repeat the words of Jesus in relation to this;**

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (**Matthew 6:31-33**)



- **So quickly how can we continually stay focused on storing up treasures in heaven in the materialistic world in which we are now living in;**

**1) We must continually CHOOSE to commit our plans to the LORD.**

- God always knows what is best for us in the long run
- We must simply choose to submit our plans to Him; that we continually seek to do God's will for our life
- This needs to be a constant choice in a world full of temptations and worldly distractions

**In the book of Proverbs we read, “Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” (Proverbs 16:3)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (Ephesians 5:15-17)**

**2) We need to be prepared to sacrificially give of ourselves.**

- We will never come second putting God first. Life has greatest meaning when we live for the Kingdom Cause

**The Apostle Paul who achieved so much for God's Kingdom during his time here on earth wrote,**

**“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)**

**Jesus Himself explained what it was to be a true disciple of His when He said,**

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.” **(Luke 9:23-24)**

- **We will only ever make an eternal difference in the lives of many others if we are prepared to sacrificially live for the Kingdom Cause.**
- **In many ways living for Christ is like rowing upstream against the current of the spirit of this world. We must continually CHOOSE to live for Christ**

### **3) We need to continually keep our focus on things above**

- We must not allow the things of this world AND the cares of life to steal our heart's affection for the Lord
- As Christians we are to be in this world but NOT of it
- Only the things of God and knowing Christ intimately can give us true satisfaction and meaning in life
- When Christ is truly first place in our life all the other things in life are just the icing on the cake
- King David and the Apostle Paul knew that knowing God intimately was the most important thing in life.

**King David wrote,** “O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.” **(Psalm 63:1-3)**

*The Apostle Paul wrote*, “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” **(Philippians 3:7-8)**

#### **4) We need to continually choose our friends wisely,**

- The friends that we associate with most will have the GREATEST influence on our lives
- We need to have friends in our life that will encourage us to realise our God given destiny in life and not friends who will continually encourage us to live for the things of this world

In the book of Proverbs we read, “The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.” **(Proverbs 12:26)**

#### **5) We need to continually TRUST the Lord at all times and let Him lead.**

- God's ways are higher than ours
- God has the best plan for our life
- We can depend on God’s faithfulness at all times
- There is no better place than being continually in the centre of God’s will for our life
- Continually trusting God at all times and in ALL circumstances is a great key to seeing all that God has planned for our life coming to pass

**In the book of Proverbs we read, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)**

**King David wrote,**

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. **Delight yourself also in the Lord**, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” (Psalm 37:3-5)

**And**

**6) We need to be continually filled with and guided by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth**

- Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit is a great safeguard against deception entering into our lives

This is why the Apostle Paul wrote,

“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” (Ephesians 5:18)

- We need to continually allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct our steps in life. This is a key to making right choices in life that help us to remain in the centre of God’s will for our lives. There is no better place than being in the centre of God’s will for our life

## **Jesus Himself said,**

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” **(John 14:26)**

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” **(John 16:13)**

- **Continually allowing the Holy Spirit to guide and direct our steps in life will help us to bear much eternal fruit as we live for the Kingdom Cause**
- **In doing this we will also be storing up treasures in Heaven**

## **SO IN CONCLUSION:**

**Just believe that your life can make a great eternal difference in the lives of many people in the days to come if you simply commit to wholeheartedly living for the Kingdom Cause**

**God has so much planned for every believer's life**

## **The LORD said to the Prophet Jeremiah,**

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” **(Jeremiah 33:3)**

**So my encouragement to you today is to focus on storing up treasures in Heaven by simply allowing Jesus Christ to be truly Lord of every area of your life**

**By doing this you will see God doing great things in and through your life in the days to come**

**The Apostle Paul wrote, “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” (Ephesians 3:20)**

**All God is looking for is people who are both WILLING and AVAILABLE to serve Him**

**I will finish with the words of the Prophet Isaiah,**

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:

“Whom shall I send,

And who will go for Us?”

Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’” (Isaiah 6:8)

**TODAY ARE YOU ALSO AVAILABLE TO WHOLEHEARTEDLY LIVE FOR THE LORD AND FOR THE KINGDOM CAUSE?**