

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Store Up For Yourselves

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With the current slump in our nation’s economy there are several opinions regarding how one should invest their assets. Yet, as we long for security in this current crisis we must never forget what God has said about our investments. “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves break in or steal” (Matt. 6:20).

Christ was not talking about where to place our monetary investments, rather He was explaining where we should put our hope, energy, and focus. This is further explained when Jesus tells the rich young ruler in Luke 18:22 “One thing you lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” By forsaking the earthly wealth he was so attached to, he would have been able to invest in a heavenly treasure.

In Luke 12:33 Jesus describes this heavenly treasure as “money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys.” We understand

that Christ is saying that we must place our primary focus on working for the heavenly treasure, but what exactly is this treasure?

A little later in the context of Luke 18:22-30, Jesus is teaching the disciples that it is difficult for the wealthy to come to God, primarily due to their reliance upon wealth and not God. Yet, Peter responds with the statement, “Behold, we have left our own homes and followed you.” Jesus then gives assurance that this sacrifice was not in vain, by affirming that those who sacrificed in this life would “receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come, eternal life.” The heavenly treasure which we are to store up for is eternal life.

This is also emphasized by the apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 6:18-19. Paul urges Timothy to instruct the rich “to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share.” If those Christians who were to follow those things they would be “laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.” The treasure which they were to store up for was not some physical secu-

urity or possession, rather it was for the greatest gift man could receive: eternal life.

As we now realize what the heavenly treasure is, it is pertinent that we return back to Matthew 6. After Jesus urges the disciples to “store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,” He follows in verse 21 stating “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” If our treasure is truly eternal life, then our heart, desires, and goals will be focused on that treasure.

This life is full of trials and difficult times, but we must remember what Paul wrote: “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Rom. 8:18). If we labor diligently for the Lord in this life, we will be storing up for ourselves that imperishable treasure, which is greater than anything this life can offer.

We must lay aside our confidence in physical things and have faith that God will give us that treasure. May we store up for that heavenly treasure!