

**Matthew 6:19-24:** Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,<sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.<sup>22</sup> The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light,<sup>23</sup> but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!<sup>24</sup> No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. [Bible doesn't condemn savings/enjoying creation; but desiring & misuse]

**Intro: Article: *The Ministry of Business: Hobby Lobby's founding family has become a force in Christian philanthropy: Susan Hertog writes about David Green:*** Today, with assets estimated at \$7.8 billion (before the coronavirus shutdowns), Green has become one of the world's richest men. After tithing — an obligation that he fulfills punctiliously [precisely; strictly] — he allots 50 percent of the company's profits to Christian projects in the U.S. and around the world. And he goes a step further by planning to perpetuate his philanthropy. If his heirs sell the company, 90 percent of the proceeds will go to spreading the Gospel. "We have one life," Green says. "At the end of your days, it's going to have to have eternal value, because almost everything else is temporal."

- **John Piper:** Tithing is a middle class way of robbing God.

- **Puritan:** May I never seek in the creature [or in anything in all of creation] what can be found only in the Creator

- Sadly many have fallen over love of money: Achan—devoted things—defeat at Ai; Solomon; Ananias & Sapphira

- You can be rich and trust and obey God! Abraham; Job; David; Joseph of Arimathea; But it's dangerous/it's hard!

## **1. What You Should Not Do: Lay Up For Yourselves Treasures On Earth**

**Matthew 6:19:** Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth

**a. What does it mean for you not to lay up for yourselves treasures on earth?** Don't pursue & desire riches and possessions and stuff and money and homes and cars and the things of this world in abundance. Don't store them up as your hope and joy and security. Don't love money/stuff. Don't live for money/stuff. Don't allow money/stuff to be your god, your idol; **Lloyd-Jones:** Our Lord is concerned here not so much about our possessions as with our attitude towards our possessions. It is not what a man may have, but what he thinks of his wealth. **(treasures!)**

- **Luke 12:16-21:** And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

- **1 Timothy 6:6-12:** Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

- **James 5:1-5:** Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. **(Do you do this? Do you lay up treasures on earth?)**

**Unbelievers: GOSPEL!**

**b. Why should you not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth?** Because that's "where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal"

Don't lay up for yourselves treasures on earth because they can be lost! They don't last! They are temporary! Moth's destroy them. Rust destroys them. Thieves steal them!

**Lloyd-Jones:** The Christian is a man who expects nothing from this world. He does not pin his hopes on it, because he knows that it is doomed.

A.W. Milne; missionary; got a one way ticket and packed his belongings in a coffin: New Hebrides, South Pacific

## **2. What You Should Do: Lay Up For Yourselves Treasures In Heaven**

**Matthew 6:20-24:** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

**a. What does it mean to lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven?** Trust Christ! **1 Peter 1:3-4:** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you

Obey the Lord; do good deeds; love your neighbor; forgive one another; help the poor; adopt orphans; share the Gospel; be the light of the world; suffer for Christ! **Titus 2:14:** who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- **Ephesians 2:8-10:** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- **1 Timothy 6:17-19:** As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

**b. Why should you lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven?** Because that's "where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."

Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven because they cannot be lost! Moths and rust cannot touch or destroy them! Thieves cannot break in and steal them! They are permanent, safe, secure, never ending, everlasting!

**Movie Quote:** What we do in this life will echo for eternity!

**Revelation 14:13:** "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

## **3. For Where Your Treasure Is, There Your Heart Will Be Also**

**Matthew 6:22:** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The heart is the very center of who you are; includes your mind, emotions, and will.

**D. A. Carson:** The most cherished treasure subtly but infallibly controls the whole person's direction and values.

If your treasure is on earth, your heart will be on earth and on what earth can provide you to satisfy your soul.

Your heart will be captivated by the people, pleasures, pursuits, payments, and property of this world. If your treasure is in heaven, your heart will be in heaven and on what heaven can provide you to satisfy your soul. Your heart will be captivated by the Person, pleasures, pursuits, payments, and property of heaven! And heaven's payout is much, much better than earth's payout! Heaven's property is much more beautiful! Heaven's pursuits are much more satisfying and meaningful. Heaven's pleasures are infinitely better and last forever and ever! And heaven's Person – oh let's think about heaven's Person – the Lord Jesus Christ – King of kings and LORD of lords!

**Evangelist Sam Jones:** More than 2000 years ago there was a man born contrary to the laws of nature. He laid aside his purple robe for a peasant's tunic. He was rich, yet for our sake He became poor. This man lived in poverty and was raised in obscurity. He received no formal education and never possessed wealth . . . He never traveled extensively. He seldom crossed the boundary of the country in which he lived and that was during exile in his childhood. His relatives were inconspicuous, not influential, and had neither training nor education. In infancy, He startled a king; in childhood, He amazed religious scholars; in manhood, He ruled over the course of nature, walked on stormy waves as if pavement, and hushed the raging sea to sleep. He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for his services. He never wrote a book, and yet all the libraries of the world hold books written about him. He never wrote a song, and yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all the songwriters combined. He never founded a college, but all the schools put together do not have as many students as does He. He never practiced medicine, and yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors throughout history. He never marshaled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun, and yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under his orders, fought against truth's enemies.

He is the Star of astronomy; The Rock of geology; The Lion and the Lamb of the zoological kingdom  
He is the Revealer of snares that lurk in the darkness; The Rebuker of every evil thing that prowls by night  
The Promoter of all that is wholesome; The Adorner of all that is beautiful  
The Reconciler of all that is contradictory; The Harmonizer of all discords  
The Healer of all diseases and the only Savior of all mankind.

He fills the pages of theology, hymnology, & the book of Psalms. Every prayer that goes up to God goes in His name & is asked to be granted for His sake. The names of the proud statesmen of Egypt & Babylon & Greece & Rome & every other earthly kingdom have come & gone. The names of the past scientists, philosophers, & theologians have come and gone; but the name of this Man is still relevant and powerful & shall forever be so! Though time has spread 2000 years between the people of this generation and the scene of His death, yet He still lives. Herod could not kill Him! Satan could not seduce Him! Death could not hold Him! He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaiming God, acknowledged by the angels, adored by saints, and feared by the demons, as a living, personal Christ. A study of the Bible reveals Christ as its central subject and great theme. What the hub is to the wheel, Christ is to the Bible. It revolves around Him. All its stories point to Him, all its truths converge in Him; all its glories reflect Him; all its promises radiate from Him; all its beauties are embodied by Him, all its demands are exemplified by Him, and all its predictions are realized through Him. He was both God & man. As the God-man, He was thirsty, & yet He gave living water. He went to a wedding & turned the water into wine. He slept in a boat, yet He stilled the storm. He was tempted, yet He sinned not. He wept, yet He raised Lazarus from the dead. He prayed to the Father & He also makes intercession for all His people . . . He is the Bread of Life & The Light of the World. He is the True Vine & the Good Shepherd. He is the Way, the Truth & the Life! He is the Door to Heaven! He is the Faithful Witness, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, Alpha & Omega, the Lord who was & is & is to come! He is the Savior of the world. He is Father to the orphan, Husband to the widow, shelter to the traveler in the night; He is the Bright and Morning Star. To the lonesome, He is the Comforter. He is the Rose of Sharon, and Water from the Rock in a "dry thirsty land." He is the brightness of God's glory, the Image of His Person, the King of Glory, the Pearl of Great Price, the Water in the desert, the Cup that runs over, the Staff of Comfort and the Sustainer of life and the Author of Salvation! He is Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of the Living God! He is not just a representative of God; He was not merely a good man that God chose; He was and is God! He is my Savior, my companion, my Lord and my King! At His name, "Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that He is Lord." Have you made that confession? One day you will.

Scripture promises as much. Please make that confession now before it is eternally too late!

**We want our hearts to treasure Christ Who is in heaven! We want our hearts to be with Him!**

- **Colossians 3:1-3:** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, & your life is hidden with Christ in God

- **1 Corinthians 3:21:** All things are yours

- **Hebrews 13:5:** Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

#### **4. Is Your Eye Healthy Or Bad?**

**Matthew 6:22-23:** The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, <sup>23</sup> but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! - A sin we are most blind to is greed; Most people don't think they are greedy; Keller stories

**D. A. Carson:** "The eye is the lamp of the body" in the sense that through the eye the body finds its way. The eye lets in light, and so the whole body is illuminated. But bad eyes let in no light, and the body is in darkness. The "light within you" seems ironic. Those with bad eyes, who walk in darkness, think they have light, but this light is in reality darkness. The darkness is all the more terrible for failure to recognize it for what it is . . . The "eye" can be equivalent to the "heart." The heart set on God so as to hold to his commands is equivalent to the eye fastened on God's law. Similarly Jesus moves from "heart" to "eye" . . . Jesus is therefore saying either (1) that the man who "divides his interest and tries to focus on both God and possessions . . . has no clear vision, and will live without clear orientation or direction . . . or (2) that the man who is stingy and selfish cannot really see where he is going; he is morally and spiritually blind.

#### **5. You Cannot Serve Both God And Money**

**Matthew 6:24:** No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

- **John Stott:** Jesus now explains that behind the choice between two treasures (where we lay them up) and two visions (where we fix our eyes) there lies the still more basic choice between two masters (whom we will serve).

- **D. A. Carson:** Both God and Money are portrayed, not as employers, but as slave owners. A man may work for two employers; but since single ownership and full time service are of the essence of slavery, he cannot serve two slave owners. Either God is served with a single-eyed devotion, or he is not served at all. Attempts at divided loyalty betray, not partial commitment to discipleship, but deep-seated commitment to idolatry.

- **Piper:** Christ is not valued at all unless He is valued above all!

- **Luke 14:26:** If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

- **Keller:** Jesus gave up all of His heavenly treasure for us (on the cross!) so that we might be saved and treasured by God in heaven for all eternity! He died and rose again!

Christ Jesus Is Our Treasure Chest  
No Moth Destroys Like A Pest  
No Rust Can Tarnish His Great Zest  
No Thief Can Steal From Us What's Best  
He Is Our Everything Expressed  
In Him We Have It All We're Blessed  
For On That Cross He'd Die Oppressed  
Under God's Wrath Poor, Sore, Distressed  
But Now He's Risen Life Expressed

And Death Is Dead It Is Confessed  
By Faith Alone In Him Find Rest  
In His Righteousness We're Dressed  
Our Hearts With Him Are Now Obsessed  
The Love Of Money We Detest  
For By Christ's Love We Are Possessed  
To Store Up Heaven's Treasure Quest  
And Serve Our God Who Is The Best!