

EVANGEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

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Sunday Worship 10:45 AM

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Where Your Heart Is!

To live effectively in Christ's Kingdom require a profound repentance and a determined adjustment to Kingdom norms. In the last half of *Matthew* chapter 6 Jesus enunciates two general Kingdom perspectives. They include unswerving loyalty to Kingdom values and an uncompromising trust in God.

This section begins with verse 19, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon 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 or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." —Matthew 6:19-21

The treasures of earth include expensive garments, the sort of thing any self-respecting moth would love to find. Paul said in Acts 20:33, "I have coveted no ones silver or gold or clothes." Rust attacks certain metals, but more likely speaks of the kind of rust that eats away at grain. Valuables which can't be corroded or eaten can be stolen. Many treasures of earth are the delight of thieves who break in and steal. So, "Treasures of earth" refer to any valuable which is perishable.

By contrast followers of Jesus must store up for themselves treasures in heaven which will not decay and cannot be lost. These treasures are the result of divine blessing which will be lavished upon the disciples in the consummated Kingdom. The treasures of heaven are wonderful beyond our wildest dreams or expectations. —I Corinthians 2:9

Jesus is not condemning all wealth any more than He is condemning all clothes. He is not prohibiting things, but the love of things. He forbids us making mere things our treasure and storing up things as if they had ultimate importance.

Solomon in Ecclesiastes pictures earthly acquisitions and achievements and then dismisses them as vanity, a striving after wind. He is not saying that these things are equally useless or vain, but that they are all transient. They are non-enduring.

When you die you will take out of this world exactly what you brought into it — nothing. Even if your wealth is not stolen and if it does not decay; if you do not loose it, you will certainly leave it.

Of course to argue as Jesus argues here presupposes belief in rewards and punishments from God. Therefore only the person of faith will acknowledge that the arguments are valid. Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." So, if I'm genuinely committed to the Kingdom of God, my most cherished values will be established by God's Word.

Think of the things you value most, work hardest to possess or experience and would hate most to be without. Now ask yourself what value it will have in a thousand years. Its never wise or reasonable to sacrifice the permanent on the altar of the immediate; and its not merely a matter of ultimate rewards. The things we treasure actually govern our lives. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." —Matthew 6:21

What we value tugs at our mind and emotions. Wanting to possess things and enjoy experiences is not bad. But neither are possessing things and enjoying experiences of ultimate value — therefore any of them can become evil if valued as ultimate treasure and thus worthy of your highest interest. Make no mistake we are drawn toward our treasures. We tend to move toward the object on which we fix our gaze. Our whole life drifts relentlessly toward the spot where our treasures are stored, because our hearts will take us there.

We must adopt an unswerving loyalty to Kingdom values and delight in all that God approves. Colossians 3:1-2, "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."