

Treasures

With the current economic situation in America, more and more people are finding creative ways in an attempt to protect the money they have. Some are investing in stocks. Others are investing in gold, silver, or other precious metals. Still others are taking out cash from the banks and hiding it away to simply store. Sadly, in the mad drive to protect their physical wealth and treasures, many have neglected to store up spiritual treasures in Heaven, as Christ commanded in Matthew 6:19-20.

For us to properly determine how to protect our spiritual treasures, we must realize that all physical treasures are temporary, including even our physical life itself (James 4:14). The very unpredictable nature of life lends proof to the idea that life itself is unreliable and very temporary. In James 4:15, the man who arrogantly boasted of things that were to happen in the future was reprimanded for his arrogance and haughty attitude. In Luke 12:18-19 a man made the mistake of boasting of his riches and of his prosperity, but in the very next verse (20), God required his soul of him for his boasting in earthly riches. God never failed to emphasize the temporary nature of all earthly wealth and prosperity, and for us to adequately begin to put our treasure in the proper place, we must also realize this important fact.

Secondly, we must realize what our spiritual treasures are. One of these is our soul. Even after death, the soul lives on (Ecclesiastes 12:7). The fact that the soul survives even physical death is proof that the soul is a far more valuable treasure than anything on earth. In fact, Christ even made this point clear when he said in Matthew 16:26, *"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"* In this verse, Christ tries to make us realize how valuable our soul is as a treasure. Nothing in the world is, or ever will be, worth our soul. In short, the soul is invaluable. Because of this, the soul must be guarded at all costs through constant study and prayer.

Perhaps there is no greater treasure available to us than God's word. It is His plan of salvation revealed. It reveals the wisdom, power, and glory of God to man. What a blessing it is that God has given us His message so that we may read and study it in order to obtain our final reward in Heaven. In Ephesians 1:3, we read that God is to be thanked for His many blessings. One of these is His holy word. Without it, we could never have that hope of eternal life. In John 6:68, Peter realized this when he implied that Christ was the only one who had the words of eternal life. What a blessing this message is, and one that we must be willing to defend.

May we always realize what a blessing these things are, and may we never take them for granted. Our soul is invaluable to our salvation, and God's plan, revealed in His message, lays out the means by which we may obtain that salvation for our souls. Let us keep these things in mind in our studies and throughout our lives as we work toward Heaven.

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