

The Prosperity of the Lord's Servant

Treasures of the Heart

I begin with this disclaimer:

Sad to say, teachings about finances are often presented under “a cloke of covetousness” (1 Thess. 2:5).

Even in Paul’s day, a teacher needed to clarify his motivation for broaching the subject.

Philippians 4:17

¹⁷ Not because I desire a gift:
but I desire fruit that may abound
to your account.



I begin with this disclaimer:

As a Christian and student of the Bible,
you must judge for yourself the veracity
of this presentation.

1 Thessalonians 5:21

²¹ Prove all things;
hold fast that which is good.



One day our mortal life will end.
Everything we intended to accomplish for the
Kingdom of God will remain undone, and we will
stand before God to give account of our life as
Christians.



Most people would be very pleased to stand before the Lord knowing that they did all that he asked them to do. How disappointed they would be to hear him condemn such minimal service as “unprofitable.”

Luke 17:7-10

- 7 But which of you,
having a servant plowing or feeding cattle,
will say unto him by and by, when he is come from
the field, Go and sit down to meat?
- 8 And will not rather say unto him,
Make ready wherewith I may sup,
and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and
drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?
- 9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the
things that were commanded him? I trow not.
- 10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those
things which are commanded you, say,
**We are unprofitable servants:
we have done that which was our duty to do.**

What could be worse than to hear a verdict of a foolish existence?

Jesus gave us the parable of “a certain rich man” to help us avoid that possibility.

Luke 12:16-21

- ¹⁶ And he spake a parable unto them, saying,
The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:
- ¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?
- ¹⁸ And he said, This will I do:
I will pull down my barns, and build greater;
and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.
- ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry.
- ²⁰ But God said unto him,
Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee:
then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?
- ²¹ So *is* he that layeth up treasure for himself,
and is not rich toward God.

Clearly there is more than one way to be rich – for yourself, or toward God.

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This man was rich in temporal things
but had nothing to carry into the next
life.

Proverbs 13:7

7 There is that maketh himself
rich, yet *hath* nothing:
there is that maketh himself
poor, yet *hath* great riches.



We are all treasure seekers. We spend our lives pursuing the things we consider most valuable. Listen to someone talk long enough and you will discover the treasure that is dearest to his heart.

Matthew 12:35

³⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things:
and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.



Our character is molded by our values. If the treasures we seek are of this world, our hearts will be in this world.

It is impossible to “be not conformed to this world” (Rom. 12:2) when the things you treasure are of this world.

Matthew 6:19-21

- ¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves
treasures upon earth,
where moth and rust doth corrupt,
and where thieves break through
and steal:
- ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves
treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust doth
corrupt, and where thieves do not
break through nor steal:
- ²¹ **For where your treasure is,
there will your heart be also.**



Having treasures in heaven is not only for our eternal blessing. These treasures enrich our present life here on earth.

Colossians 3:1-3

- ¹ If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.
- ² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
- ³ For ye are dead [in Christ], and your life is hid with Christ in God.



Jesus did not die on the cross to clear the way to the riches of the world. He came so that we could have riches that are eternal and incorruptible.

Proverbs 8:18

¹⁸ Riches and honour *are* with me;
yea, **durable riches** and
righteousness.



Here are some
of the durable
riches of God.

Romans 2:4

¹⁸ ... the riches of his goodness and forbearance and
longsuffering...

Romans 11:33

³³ ... the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God...

Ephesians 1:7

⁷ ... the riches of his grace...

Ephesians 1:18

¹⁸ ... the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints...

Ephesians 2:7

⁷ ... the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward
us through Christ Jesus...

Ephesians 3:8

⁸ ... the unsearchable riches of Christ...

Sad to say, many people never discover the life-enriching value of being well-versed in the Scriptures and coming to the knowledge of God. But these treasures are not scattered about like seashells on the shore. Like silver and gold, effort is required to mine them.

Proverbs 3:13-15

- ¹³ Happy is the man *that* findeth wisdom, and the man *that* getteth understanding.
- ¹⁴ For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.
- ¹⁵ She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.



Do you consider yourself a rich person?
Your answer reveals much about the
condition of your heart. In the end, you
are what you treasure.

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What is in your treasure chest?

Will you leave your treasures here on earth,
or will they follow you into eternity?



Don't settle for laying up treasure for yourself.
Be rich toward God. While you are here on
earth, lay up treasure in heaven.





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