

Series on Death and the Afterlife – sermon 6 - 12/12/10 (am)

Treasure in Heaven

Matthew 6:19-21

*Theme: Christians can store up
treasure in Heaven.*

The Irrationality of Storing up Treasure on Earth

The Lord commands Christians
to accumulate treasure in Heaven
not treasure on earth.

Regarding storing up treasure on earth (6:19a):

- Jesus is not prohibiting providing for the future, *cf.* Genesis 41:33-37; Proverbs 6:6-8.
- He is prohibiting pouring hopes, ambitions, interests, and energies into things belonging to this world only.

- *Treasure* may include money or wealth, a boy- or girlfriend, a fiancé(e), a spouse, abilities, physique, career, sport, fashion, status, home, a cause, etc.

If anything on this earth is everything to you it is an earthly treasure. [Kent Hughes]

- The Lord is prohibiting idolatry!

Christians should not store up treasure on earth for **two reasons**:

1. It is irrational (6:19b).
2. It shows that your heart is not where it should be! (6:21)

Storing up Treasure in Heaven

We may make four deductions from
6:20a:

1. A Christian can store up treasure in
Heaven.

This is in addition to salvation.

Two questions may arise:

i. What kind of treasure is the Lord referring to? The Bible is silent on this. The best we can say is that it is some form of reward, and because it is treasure in Heaven it will be beyond our dreams.

ii. How do you actually store up treasure in Heaven? We will come to that below.

2. Each Christian's treasure in Heaven is secure.

3. The amount of treasure in Heaven will vary from Christian to Christian.

Consider: Matthew 6:20; 25:14-30; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 6:7-8; Revelation 14:13.

The Bible clearly teaches that there are *degrees of reward* in Heaven.

This will not cause jealousy or division in glory.

All of the redeemed will be fully satisfied.

The saints [in glory] are like so many vessels of differing sizes cast into a sea of happiness where every vessel is full.

[Jonathan Edwards]

**4. Faithful Christian living
determines the amount of
treasure in Heaven.**

See 2 Corinthians 5:10;
Ephesians 6:7-8; 1 Timothy
6:17-19; Matthew 25:14-30.

Faithful service gains reward,
shoddy service forfeits reward.

Think First Class when you think
of Heaven!

**Conclusion –
Set Your Minds on things above**

*Christian,
how are you living?*

*Are you storing up
treasure on earth
or in Heaven?*