

BANKING IN HEAVEN

By Keith Greer

What do you think of when you hear the word "worldliness"? Lying, stealing, drinking, gambling, adultery and things of this nature. Yet, is this the only area where worldliness comes into play? Christ speaks of another area--hoarding up this world's riches. In and of itself it is not wrong, but when we become entangled--there is the real danger.

Christ deals with this danger in His Sermon on the Mount. Let us examine the text of this teaching:

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on 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 and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. {Matthew 6:19-21}

What is the Lord prohibiting? Is He banning earthly wealth? Is it sinful for man to desire land, make money and build houses? Can we put some money away for a "rainy day"? Christ is not forbidding these things. God commands us to provide for our own families.

"But if anyone does not especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." {1Timothy 5:8}

Christ is prohibiting the selfish accumulation of riches. Christ is dealing with one's attitudes towards life.

"Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." {1Timothy 6:17-19}

What if our heart is on the temporal things of this world? Then our focus is on the wrong things. Remember, the words of Paul: "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." {1 Timothy 6:10}

Money is not evil, it is the love of it! When we begin to place more emphasis on what we can gain, than the needs of our spiritual lives, our lives are banking on the temporal things of life.

How can we get it right- provide for family and make a comfortable life? We must answer - where is my heart? What do I truly treasure? Let me offer some suggestions.

Treasure your life. We only have one and it is fleeting. When we meet Him in judgment the only thing which will matter-- did I obey His will? Hebrews 9:27; Matthew 7:21-23.

Treasure your family. Our parents, spouse and children— remember, these relationships are a blessing from God. Do we sacrifice their souls by trying to hoard up this world's materials? What kind of examples do we place before them? Where do they see my "heart?"

Treasure your mind. Fill it with honorable and pure things. Philippians 4:8; Proverbs 4:23.

Treasure your soul. Your soul is worth more than all this world can offer! "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?" {Matthew 16:26}

Each of us determine what things are truly important and take a high priority in our lives. Yes, one has many things to juggle and find the proper balance in living the life totally committed to His Lord. Yet, never forget all that God has asked of us, we have the ability to accomplish. This world may throw many obstacles in our way to side track us but we must stay focused on the task. My friend, where are you banking? Heaven or earth? Spiritual or temporal? The choice remains with you! ***