

Seek to Store Up Treasure in Heaven

By Pat Chadwick



He that is faithful and endureth shall overcome the world. He that sendeth up treasures unto the land of Zion, shall receive an inheritance in this world, and his works shall follow him; and also a reward in the world to come (Doctrine and Covenants 63:13a-b).

Although, the above scripture was speaking of “physical wealth/physical treasure” being sent up to Zion, the scriptures tell us that our heavenly treasure is much more than the physical. It is our love of God and our relationship with him. Our gifts, talents, skills, and time spent in his service. That is our true treasure. (Although giving of our wealth/physical treasure to the cause of building up his Kingdom is counted as good and is rewarded.)

When Hal’s father passed away at the age of 55, Hal and I were in charge of going through his things and disposing of them. It was a sad task and I can still remember the pile of things that we took to the Goodwill. A bowling ball, golf clubs, clothes and shoes but we realized these were not Jim’s treasure. They were just stuff. We don’t take our stuff with us when we die, we go out of this world as we came into it, with nothing.

As Hal and I stood and looked at the pile of Jim’s stuff, we realized, Jim’s essence, “his treasure”, was not found in the physical things he left behind. It was in his belief and love of God that he had passed on to

Hal and his family. His testimonies of how God had blessed and helped him in his life. His call to be a Teacher in the priesthood and how he sought to fulfill that calling. His faithfulness and service to God. His last testimony to us of how God had made it known to him that he was being called home to heaven, to fulfill a work and a need there, and he was excited about going. These were his true treasures. A sobering realization at the age of 27.

Jesus said: *Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Matthew 6:19-21).*

The things that we set our hearts upon have great power to motivate us. We all have things that motivate us to go forward, to plan, to work, to achieve a goal. **What is your Heart’s Desire? What motivates you? Where is your treasure?**

We do need earthly goals and motivations but those need to bend to a higher motivation and eternal goals. Do you, in your daily life, look beyond the end of this physical life? Where do you want to be when this physical life comes to an end either by death or the return of Jesus?

We find clarity about our eternal life in the scriptures. Concerning those who will die in the Lord, before He returns, we are given enlightenment: *They shall rise from the dead and shall not die after, and shall receive an inheritance before the Lord, in the holy city.* Concerning those who are righteous and alive when Christ comes, we are also given enlightenment: *(continued) And he that liveth when the Lord shall come, and has kept the faith, blessed is he; nevertheless it is appointed to him to die at the age of man; 13e wherefore children shall grow up until they become old, old men shall die; but they shall not sleep in the dust, but they shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye (Doctrine and Covenants 63:13d-e).*

I don't know about you but I want to get changed in a twinkling of an eye. Either way my goal is to end up with that ***"inheritance before the Lord in the Holy City"***. In other words, I want to live eternally with my God. This is my heart's desire!

God seeks to motivate us in our **"Hearts Desire and Goal Setting"** by giving us information about what is to come. He continued to elaborate in ***Doctrine and Covenants 63: 13g-h: These things are the things that ye must look for, and speaking after the manner of the Lord, they are now nigh at hand; and in a time to come, even in the day of the coming of the Son of Man, and until that hour, there will be foolish virgins among the wise, and at that hour cometh an entire separation of the righteous and the wicked; and in that day will I send mine angels, to pluck out the wicked, and cast them into unquenchable fire. I don't know about you but I find that pretty motivating. I want to have oil in my lamp and be among the righteous when Christ comes. I want an inheritance in the Holy City.***



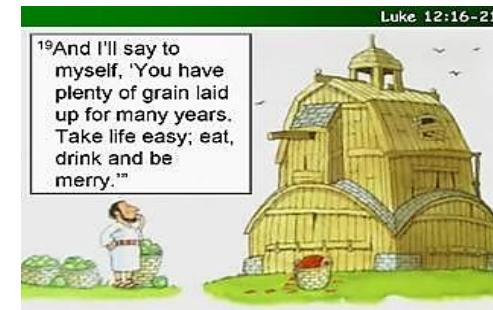
Peter said it this way: ***But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in the which the heavens shall shake, and the earth also shall tremble, and the mountains shall melt, and pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be filled with fervent heat; the earth also shall be filled, and the corruptible works which are therein shall be burned up. If then all these things shall be destroyed, what manner of persons ought ye to be in holy conduct and godliness (II Peter 3:10-11).*** All our corruptible works will be burnt up. Only works of righteousness will stand.

Stand in holy places, and prepare for the revelation which is to come when the veil of the covering of my temple, in my tabernacle, which hideth the earth, shall be taken off, and all flesh shall see me together. And every corruptible thing, both of man, or of the beasts of the field, or of the fowls of heaven, or of the fish of the sea, that dwell upon all the face of the earth, shall be consumed;

Therefore, care not for the body, neither the life of the body; but care for the soul, and for the life of the soul, and seek the face of the Lord always, that in patience ye may possess your souls, and ye shall have eternal life (Doctrine and Covenants 98:5a-b, j).

Digging Deeper

Jesus warned us in the parable about the **"Foolish Rich Man"** of the dangers in storing up earthly treasures and the importance of setting right priorities.



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? So shall it be with him who layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God (Luke 12:22-23).

F Henry Edwards in, **"Missionary Sermon Studies"** (p.377-383), says this concerning our trusteeship over the things of life: ***I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service (Romans 12:1).***

The Christian way of life is the way of service rather than selfishness. In this way of life, the Son of God has gone before us and has set the perfect example. In view of all that God has done for us, such service on our part is eminently reasonable and Jesus says it is the primary mark of discipleship. *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me...Therefore, forsake the world, and save your souls; for what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul (Matthew 16:25, 29)?* We must ask ourselves if we are selling our souls?

This means fundamentally, that the true disciple must not let himself obtrude (i.e., thrust forward) into the business of discipleship. **His own wants for himself, as contrasted with his wants for all mankind, must have a second place. If he does not take this attitude he may gain the whole world, but in so doing loses his own soul.**...He who wants to be unselfish in the Christian sense must first ally himself with the work of God and then must be endowed with the Spirit of God to make him a real thinker of God's thoughts and a doer of God's will.

A genuine Christian regards himself as a trustee for the kingdom of God, managing his talents and his opportunities in the kingdom interest and being willingly responsible to God for this management. From a worldly point of view, such faithfulness seems unprofitable but the wisdom of God teaches us...*But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil...Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life (1 Timothy 6:9-10, 17-19).*

Are you laying up in store a good foundation, a treasure in heaven?

Action Page



Jacob, the brother of Nephi, had this to say concerning our hearts and treasure: **But wo unto the rich, who are rich as to the things of the world. For because they are rich, they despise the poor, and they persecute the meek, and their hearts are upon their treasures: wherefore, their treasure is their God. And behold, their treasure shall perish with them also.**

Wherefore, do not spend money for that which is of no worth, nor your labor for that which can not satisfy. Harken diligently unto me, and remember the words which I have spoken; and come unto the Holy One of Israel, And feast upon that which perisheth not, neither can be corrupted, and let your soul delight in fatness. Behold, my beloved brethren, remember the words of your God; pray unto him continually by day, and give thanks unto his holy name by night. Let your hearts rejoice, and behold how great the covenants of the Lord, and how great his condescensions unto the children of men (II Nephi 6:62-64, 100-104).



Activity for September = Evaluate yourselves to see where your treasure is for each man's work will be tested.

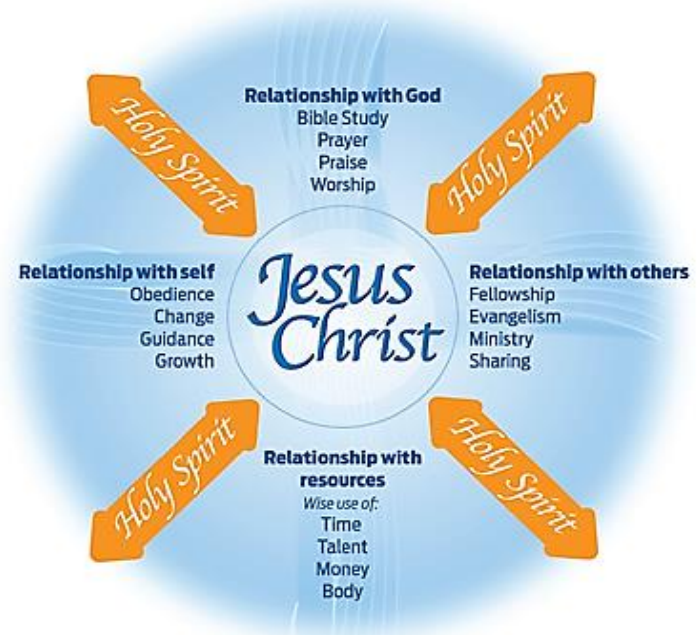
1. Is your relationship with God first in your life? Is the Holy Spirit functioning in your daily life.
2. What about yourself = Are you growing spiritually? Are you praying, fasting and studying the scriptures etc.?
3. What about your relationship with others = Are you ministering to others and sharing the gospel?
4. What about your resources = Are you giving not only your wealth but of your time and talents? Are you serving the Lord?
5. Evaluate yourself each week and seek to put those things into your daily life that are “**Eternal Treasures**”. This may take some rearranging in your life, changing your goals, etc. We have been told that we can't build Zion on the spiritual level that we are on. We must change/grow spiritually. Put God first in our lives, make him and his Kingdom our hearts desire/our treasure.

Consider this message from Roy Weldon
1960 Warrensburg Reunion

“We need to move our possessions and talents to higher ground. The only things we can save will be the things we give to God and the church. We need to move to higher ground in personal righteousness, in keeping the Sabbath. I see as this people shall move to higher ground, for every height they shall scale, heaven shall reach down. They shall come in increasing contact with the powers of God.”

Look at the illustration below
and “Evaluate Yourself”

Seriously look at how you spend your weekly resources of Time, Wealth, Talents & Skills. Is God getting His share? If God is your Treasure, then he will be first in your Heart and Life



Remember: *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward (1 Corinthians 3:11-14).*