



## Part 5: Thinking Ahead: How to Stay Excited About Heaven

### How can I stay excited about heaven?

*The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.*

Matt. 13:44

### Three steps to changing my focus from earth to heaven:

#### 1. See \_\_\_\_\_

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.* Matt. 6:19

Why do we focus on earthly treasure?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. See the \_\_\_\_\_ effects of my \_\_\_\_\_

*But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.* Matt. 6:20

*For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?* 1 Ths. 2:19

*...give ...and you will have treasure in heaven.* Matt. 19:21, Mark 10:21, Luke 18:22

*Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven...* Lk 12:33

*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.* Luke 6:38

*...they will lay up treasure for themselves... for the coming age.* 1 Tim. 6:19

*Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Cor. 9:6

#### 3. See \_\_\_\_\_

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* Matt. 6:21

*And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.* Eph. 2:6,7

## Daily Meditations

Brief daily Bible studies and questions for reflection on today's topic!

### This week's memory verse:

*But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.* Matt. 6:20

### Monday

What point or points stood out to you from the weekend message? Read Matt. 6:19-20. Why does Jesus say we shouldn't focus primarily on building earthly stores of wealth?

How can earthly wealth be "destroyed" or "stolen"?

This weekend we mentioned there are three common lures of the treasure trap: security, satisfaction, and significance. Which of these tends to lure *you* into focusing too much on earthly treasure? Why?

*Earthly treasure is useful for certain things. But when we try to use it to gain the three goals mentioned above, it falls far short. Thank the Lord for all His good gifts to you. Ask Him to show you ways today you can "store up treasures in heaven".*

### Tuesday

Read Matt. 6:21-23. What do you think Jesus means when he says, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"? How does this relate to all you've learned during this series on heaven?

What do you think verses 22-23 mean?

Read Exodus 20:17. How do Jesus' words about your eyes relate to this part of the Ten Commandments?

How does *coveting* contribute to the "treasure trap" many people find themselves in?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:6. How does this verse help us escape covetousness and greed?

How have you been trapped by money-- through debt, consuming envy, workaholism, or some other way? How did you get free?

*Ask God to help your heart focus on heavenly, not earthly, treasure. Ask Him for wisdom to discern when you are developing a dangerous relationship with money and possessions. Thank Him for His priceless gifts of His love and grace!*

## **Wednesday**

Read Matt. 6:24. This verse makes me stop and think every time I read it! I ask myself: Who is it I am really serving? Jesus points out that humans will always serve something. Whether it's your work, your money, your addictions, your resentments, your pleasure, your God-- there will always be a central driving force to your life.

Spend some time considering: Who or what have you served at times during your life?

What are you serving now?

*If you discover that you really are serving another master, take time right now for some realignment: Ask God to once again be your only Lord!*

## **Thursday**

Happy Thanksgiving! Read 1 Tim. 6:6-11. This is a very appropriate verse to read on Thanksgiving, since it deals with the secret of contentment: Thankfulness and generosity. What is the core of Paul's advice in verses 6-9?

Is this advice easy or hard for you to follow?

When are you least likely to be content?

According to verses 9 and 10, what can happen when you pursue riches?

Instead of riches, what are we to pursue, according to verse 11?

*Ask God today for a spirit of thankfulness and contentment. Ask Him to open your eyes and help you see the good gifts He lavishes on you! Ask Him to help you be content with these.*

## **Friday**

Read 1 Tim. 6:17-19. According to these verses, why should we not put our hope in wealth?

What should we do instead?

According to verse 17, what does God do for us?

Write down at least 7 things "God richly provides for your enjoyment" that you might easily overlook:

*Thank God for all these blessings, and especially for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ!*

## **Saturday**

Finish any devotions you may have missed. Polish up the memory verse at the top of the previous page. In your prayer time, turn to page 4 of these notes and look at the coming events. Please pray for the services this weekend *and* the many special Christmas events listed that are coming up in the next four weeks! Thanks!