

On The Frontier

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

Treasures Of The Heart

by Linus A. Mathis III

As we stand on the threshold of the newest of millennia we might ask ourselves what it is that we treasure most. Whatever that is will be and has been evidenced in our speech. Based upon what the Lord Jesus taught, the depth of a man's heart is made known by his "mouth."

Luke 6:45

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Obviously, not every word we speak proceeds from the profundity of our thoughts, much is superficial. Nevertheless, those who spend time engaging their lips shall ultimately reveal the contents of their heart. That being the case, everyone of us should be concerned with filling our hearts with good things. Without controversy, the best of the good things are found in God's matchless Word. All that we speak and do issues from the heart, thus we are compelled to love and treasure God and His precepts. That is, if we want to do and say that which is good and well pleasing in His sight. Consequently, we must recognize the true treasure which is God's Word!

Matthew 6:19-21

Lay not up for yourselves treasures 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.

Many may treasure the things of Earth but it is evident that these things are fragile! On the other hand, the treasures which are in Heaven (that is to say, God) are not subject to hardship. Heaven's treasures are impervious to that which devours the treasures of Earth. The decision rests with us. What do we deem to be true treasure?

Proverbs 2:1

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

First we must receive His Word and then we must hide it in our hearts.

Consider the way this verse has been rendered by the Revised Standard Version:

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and treasure my commandments with thee;

The Amplified translates the phrase "hide my commandments with thee" as follows: "treasure up my commandments within you"

When you have a treasure you find a safe place for it. People commonly keep their "valuables" in a safe. In years past a chest would be reserved for such a purpose. A "treasure chest" is known to contain precious wealth. Such a chest would be locked securely and then hidden or buried so as to further protect its contents from theft or loss. When it comes to the supreme treasure, that of God's Word, the safest place is the heart. We are to take His Word and hide or treasure it up within us.

Let's look at Matthew again:

Matthew 6:19-21

Lay not up for yourselves treasures 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.

According to some sources houses in the east were built of mud walls with wicker framework and as such could be easily broken into. Raiment (clothing) was a measure of wealth and as we well know subject to moths. If not moths, wear and tear to be sure! This position is logical and certainly has merit. But, I want you to consider the perspective given by a wonderful man from the East who, in his adult years became a Christian. That man was Bishop

K.C. Pillai, his explanation of the above passage is much more in keeping with eastern thinking. He defined the terms used in Matthew as follows:

Treasure = thoughts.
Heaven = the realm of spirit.

Earth = the realm of matter, material things.

Moth = fear that eats away at our thoughts.

Rust = worry that corrodes and destroys godly thoughts.

Corrupt = to breed.

The Bishop also gave the following literal:

Let not your thoughts be centered in material things where fears and worries breed defeat and frustration, and where the doubts break through and steal your thoughts:

But let your thoughts be centered in the Spirit, where neither fear nor worry breeds defeat and frustration, and where doubts do not break through and steal your thoughts.

For where your thoughts are, there will your heart be also.

In other words, what do you treasure? What is your focus? It should be God's Word but if not, change your focus and change your treasure. It's that simple!

This is true treasure:

Matthew 6:33
But seek ye first the kingdom of

God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Imagine, the riches of His Kingdom! What could be better or more valuable? Anything less is fleeting at best!

Proverbs 23:4,5
Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

Don't you just love these verses? Many, many times I've watched my money take wings! How about you?

Treasures of the heart, of these we speak:

Luke 6:43-45
For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Take note of the man in the following parable and consider his end:

Luke 12:15-21
And he said unto them, Take

heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

The abundant life is not a result of the material things we steward, but of the spiritual relationship we enjoy with our wonderful Heavenly Father!

Verses 16-21
And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

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.

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.

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 *is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Not rich toward God!!! Did you get that? We need to be RICH toward God! Anything less is abject poverty!!! As earlier mentioned, when you have a treasure you hide it to save it from loss.

Matthew 13:44
Again, the kingdom of heaven is

like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Are you willing to sell all your earthly goods in order to obtain a lot in the kingdom of God? I am! After all, that which we have now is simply on loan. No one really owns anything as evidenced by the fact that upon death all is left behind.

I Timothy 6:7

For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

Most of us came into this world bald, naked and toothless and most of us will leave the same way.

Psalms 119:162

I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil [riches].

This Word of God is priceless and our estimation of it will determine for us how we are benefitted. Consider the inestimable value of redemption:

Psalms 49:6-20

They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;

None *of them* can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:

(For the redemption of their soul *is* precious, and it ceaseth for ever: [is forever unattainable])

That he should still live for ever, *and* not see corruption.

For he seeth *that* wise men die,

likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others.

Their inward thought *is, that* their houses *shall continue* for ever, *and* their dwelling places to all generations; they call *their* lands after their own names.

Nevertheless man *being* in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts *that* perish.

This their way *is* their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah.

Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling.

But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased;

For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.

Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and *men* will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself.

He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light.

Man *that is* in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts *that* perish.

Wow! Now there's a section that needs no explanation.

Colossians 3:1-17

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian,

Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all.

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.

And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

How can we be anything BUT thankful? Our Father has lavishly showered us with His wealth. This wealth is in His Word and in His Son and in His spirit. As with any true treasure we guard it in the safest place possible.

Psalms 119:11, 32, 36

Thy word have I hid [as treasure] in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Verse 32:

I will run the way of thy

commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

I want a really big heart so that there's lots and lots of room for the treasure of His Word. How about you?

Verse 36:

Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

If we ask Him, He will help us to desire His Word above worldly things. He can incline our hearts toward righteous thoughts and thankfulness.

Psalms 73:26

My flesh and my heart faileth: *but* God *is* the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

He is the center of my life and my heart, He will help me! Should you feel as though you need help, He's right there to give it. Have you ever felt like you needed to have your heart revived? He will do it if you ask.

Isaiah 57:15

For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name *is* Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Consider the Psalmist's request:

Psalm 139:23,24

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

And see if *there be* any wicked

way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Quite the item, isn't it? We need God's help in this effort. Why? Because we can be deceived and not recognize wickedness as such when in our own heart. But God is never deceived. Furthermore, the thought of looking into the heart may menace our attempt if on our own. But with the light of God's presence you know everything is going to be alright.

Don't you just love this prayer?

Ephesians 3:16-21

That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Now that's a prayer we can pray that will withstand the test of time! Is your heart chained? Ask God to unchain it and He will. He will put wings on your soul! When your heart

is light your step is springy and your countenance is bright. A free heart filled with the Word of God commands a tongue that is golden and dripping with the honey of the Holy Writ!

Psalms 36:4-10

Thy mercy, O LORD, *is* in the heavens; *and* thy faithfulness *reacheth* unto the clouds.

Thy righteousness *is* like the great mountains; thy judgments *are* a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast.

How excellent *is* thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

For with thee *is* the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

O continue thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.

Help O' my God to know Thee and treasure Thee in the great depths of my heart! For in so doing, my words shall be sweet and the topic of my conversation shall be Thee and Thy glory only!

I'd like to share one of my favorite verses with you now:

Psalms 45:1

My heart is inditing [bubbling over with, welling up with] a

good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue *is* the pen of a ready writer.

Isn't that magnificent! Don't you yearn for your tongue to be like the pen of a ready writer? I do! Our tongues will be like that when our hearts are welling up with God's Word. The world may speak of politics and theatrics, of economics and technology but we must speak of our God. We must have as our topic for conversation the coming Kingdom over which the Lord Jesus Christ shall preside. Think of what you spoke of last year and decide now what you will speak of in the coming year. If what you spoke of was God and His Word, of Christ and the Kingdom of God, well. If so, determine now to continue to speak and that with ever increasing intensity. If not, now is the time to change your conversational topics by changing the treasure of your heart. Ask Him and He will set your heart free so that you may soar with the eagles!

Isaiah 40:28-31

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding.

He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up

with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

**UNCHAIN MY HEART LORD,
UNCHAIN MY HEART!!!**

**FRONTIER CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES
WISHES YOU AND YOURS A HEALTHY
AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**
