

(Matthew 6:19-21, NIV84)

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Today, in a publication I receive called Preach the Word, I found this excellent encouragement: "If you read just one thing today, read the Bible. In fact, don't worry about reading anything else until you've spent time in God's Word." That's good advice not only for preachers, but for all Christians.

With all the spare time that many of us have currently, it's easy to spend a lot of time and energy pursuing things that are not all that valuable. Sure, we can pursue entertainment to occupy ourselves -- playing games, watching TV, reading novels. But taking time to grow in knowledge and understanding of God's Word will always have long-lasting benefits (some, even eternal).

Some might look at the prospect of reading the Bible and think: "Boring!" Let's see: look at the book that was inspired by the Holy Spirit, look at God's plan of salvation for me, look at the revelation of who Jesus is and what He has done so that I can be with Him for all eternity. Boring? Hardly! This is health-food for the soul. Take time to drink deeply of God's Word -- the water of life. If you want something to challenge you, take a portion of Scripture that speaks to you personally and commit it to memory; store it up like treasure in your heart.

Rich beyond measure, with you in Christ,
Pastor Golm

Thoughts of the Father's House

Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:21

The weary wanderer, as he rests at close of day, thinks fondly of his father's house. The familiar faces, the friendly voices the recollections of distant loved ones, have inscribed their indelible pictures upon the picture-album of his soul. And so when evening comes, he retreats from the busy world for quiet thoughts about his father's house. That is where his treasure is, and that is where his heart is also.

So, too, we Christians. We have a Father and a "Father's house", reserved for us in the land beyond the shadow. In that distant home lies the complete fulfilment of all our highest hopes. There dwells the Savior, who has prepared our home for us-and has prepared us for our home. There dwell those whom we "love most and best". And there we too someday shall dwell. How natural, then, that again and again we should find our thoughts slipping away to the inviting doorway of our Father's house, to loved ones who have gone before, and to the eternal joys that await us there. That is where our treasure is; how could our heart be elsewhere?

It is several of these thoughts of our Father's house gathered from the pages of the Bible over which we shalt linger each day in the following meditations. As we contemplate the beauties of the mansions which stand at our journey's end, we pray our heavenly Father that our hearts may be cheered, and our feet be guided ever more surely along our pilgrim path. Each night, as we put another day behind us and look forward to our Father's house above, may we share the faith of the Christian poet:

One sweetly solemn thought
Comes to me o'er and o'er:
Nearer my home today am I
Than e'er I've been before.

Nearer my Father's house,
Where many mansions be,
Where many loved ones gone before
Mine eyes at last shall see.