

Created After the Image of God

Lesson 12 – Treasure on Earth or in Heaven

December 1, 2019

“... and to put on the new self, **created to be like God** in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:24)

“... and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge **in the image of its Creator**” (Colossians 3:10)

1. We all want to be rewarded, to get a portion that belongs to us, to get our part
 - a. Abraham, David, and Jeremiah all decided that God would be their reward and portion
 - i. “After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. **I am your shield, your very great reward.**’” (Genesis 15:1)
 - ii. “**LORD, you alone are my portion** and my cup; you make my lot secure.” (Psalm 16:5)
 - iii. “I cry to you, LORD; I say, ‘**You are my refuge, my portion**’” (Psalm 142:5)
 - iv. “**The LORD is my portion**; therefore I will wait for him.” (Lamentations 3:24)
 - v. The greatest reward we can ever have is a good relationship with God
 - b. “So that your giving may be in secret. **Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.** ... But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. **Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.** ... so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and **your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.**” (Matthew 6:4, 6, 18)
 - i. A hypocrite (an actor) does what’s right while other people are watching
 - ii. Christians are to do what’s right being conscious that God is always watching
2. “Do not store up for yourselves **treasures on earth**, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.” (Matthew 6:19-20)
 - a. Treasures are either on earth or in heaven—there are no other options or anything in between
 - b. We’re all seeking treasures in one place or the other but not both
 - c. Treasures on earth are anything valuable, important, or rewarding to us in this short life: happiness, health, possessions, wealth, comfort, praise, power, reputation, beauty, etc.
 - d. Treasures in heaven consist of one single thing—pleasing God and for Him to be our portion
 - i. What’s more important than pleasing God who gave us life and gives us eternal life?
 - ii. To be rewarded by God we must be right with Him and live to please Him
 - e. “The Father has not left Me alone, for **I always do those things that please Him.**” (John 8:29)
 - i. “This is my Son, whom I love; **with him I am well pleased.**” (Matthew 3:17)
 - ii. Jesus always did what pleased His Father—He treasured pleasing Him above all else
 - f. “Jesus turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; **you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.**’” (Matthew 16:23)
3. “For where your treasure is, **there your heart will be also.**” (Matthew 6:21)
 - a. Mankind’s hearts have become evil because of sin
 - i. “The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that **every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.**” (Genesis 6:5)
 - ii. “**The heart is deceitful above all things** and beyond cure. Who can understand it? **‘I the LORD search the heart** and examine the mind’” (Jeremiah 17:9-10)
 - iii. “**For out of the heart come evil thoughts**—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.” (Matthew 15:19)
 - b. Since our hearts are where our treasure is, our hearts are changed by changing our treasure

- i. “Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they will see God.” (Matthew 5:8)
 - ii. “But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already **committed adultery with her in his heart**.” (Matthew 5:28)
 - iii. A pure heart is having right motives for what we do and having pure thoughts about others
- 4. “**For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks**. A good man out of **the good treasure of his heart** brings forth good things, and an evil man out of **the evil treasure** brings forth evil things.” (Matthew 12:34-35)
 - a. The main way to discern what’s in someone’s heart is by listening to how they talk
 - i. Do they talk about problems, complain about others, justify themselves, talk negatively?
 - ii. Or, are they honest about themselves, do they speak well of others, are they thankful?
 - b. Another way is by how people act when their treasure is in jeopardy
 - i. Nice people become not so nice when their own time and money is involved
 - ii. How do they react when they’re made to look good or bad in front of others?
- 5. “Therefore **do not worry about tomorrow**, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matthew 6:34)
 - a. There’s a popular song that says “Don’t worry, be happy!”—but that never worked for me
 - b. I used to have a big problem with worry and anxiety but I learned that it was because my treasure was on earth and I was trying to protect my treasure—I had to change my treasure
- 6. “And this water symbolizes **baptism that now saves you also**—not the removal of dirt from the body but **the pledge of a clear conscience toward God**. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:21)
 - a. Baptism is a pledge to live conscious of God knowing our every thought and motive
 - b. “For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of **unjust suffering because they are conscious of God**.” (1 Peter 2:19)
 - c. “Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also **as a matter of conscience**.” (Romans 13:5)
- 7. Living the Christian life is all about sacrificing what’s important to us to serve others
 - a. “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and **take up their cross daily** and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)
 - b. “... to offer your bodies as **a living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God—**this is your true and proper worship**.” (Romans 12:1)
 - c. As Christians, we are to live sacrificial lives, making sacrifices that only God sees and knows
- 8. The surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ makes everything else like garbage by comparison
 - a. “By faith **Moses**, when he had grown up, **refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter**. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. **He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt**, because he was looking ahead to **his reward**.” (Hebrews 11:24-26)
 - b. “But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of **the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whose sake I have lost all things. **I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ**” (Philippians 3:7-8)
- 9. What have you really gained for all of your hard work throughout your life?
 - a. “‘Meaningless! Meaningless!’ says the Teacher. ‘Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.’ **What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun?**” (Ecclesiastes 1:2-3)
 - b. “Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind**. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)