

WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS...IN CHRIST

Today, there are many ministries that all they speak of is money and getting rich or attaining to great wealth, and they do this with the support of Scripture. It is undeniable that there are verses in Scripture that support the idea that a believer is not to be poor. However, there are just as many verses that warn of the dangers of riches and wealth.

For example consider what Solomon, who was given the wisdom of God, has to say on the matter.

Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.
(Proverbs 3:16 NASB)

“Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness.”
(Proverbs 8:18 NASB)

To endow those who love me with wealth, that I may fill their treasuries. (Proverbs 8:21 NASB)

Please take note that these three verses pertain to wisdom. It could be argued that God’s wisdom and wealth go hand-in-hand. If one gains wealth from the wisdom of man is it wealth on the basis of righteousness?

The rich man’s wealth is his fortress, the ruin of the poor is their poverty. (Proverbs 10:15 NASB)

Great wealth is in the house of the righteous, but trouble is in the income of the wicked. (Proverbs 15:6 NASB)

The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, honor and life. (Proverbs 22:4 NASB)

Now, consider Solomon’s wisdom about the danger of riches and wealth.

Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. (Proverbs 11:4 NASB)

A gracious woman attains honor, and ruthless men attain riches.
(Proverbs 11:16 NASB)

He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like the green leaf. (Proverbs 11:28 NASB)

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For riches are not forever, nor does a crown endure to all generations.
(Proverbs 27:24 NASB)

Keep deception and lies far from me, give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is my portion.... (Proverbs 30:8 NASB)

Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, but the one who gathers by labor increases it. (Proverbs 13:11 NASB)

The utilization of stock markets, special securities, and other Babylonian vehicles for increasing wealth is gaining wealth through risk taking, which could be likened to gambling, not through labor.

A good name is to be more desired than great wealth, favor is better than silver and gold. (Proverbs 22:1 NASB)

Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, cease from your consideration of it. (Proverbs 23:4 NASB)

When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For wealth certainly makes itself wings like an eagle that flies toward the heavens. (Proverbs 23:5 NASB)

He who increases his wealth by interest and usury gathers it for him who is gracious to the poor. (Proverbs 28:8 NASB)

A man with an evil eye hastens after wealth and does not know that want will come upon him. (Proverbs 28:22 NASB)

Again, I realize that there are other pet verses, so to speak, that are used to preach the “get-rich” gospel, but these serve to make the point that there are exhortations warning about riches and wealth, as well as ones that encourage riches and wealth for the righteous.

Well, much of the “get-rich” teaching of our day comes from the so-called “religious leaders” of the “church-at-large” and its associated ministries, and this fact should remind us of Jesus’ warning to His disciples and, by extension, the religious leaders of His day over 2,000 years ago. The Pharisees were lovers of money (Luke 16:14).

(19) “Stop storing [or, treasuring] up treasures for yourselves on the earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal, (20) but be storing [or, treasuring] up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in nor steal, (21) for where your treasure is, there will your heart [fig., inner desire] be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21 ALT)

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(33) “Sell your possessions and give charitable gifts. Make for yourselves money bags [which] are not wearing out, an inexhaustible treasure in the heavens, where a thief does not come near nor does a moth destroy. (34) For where your treasure is, there your heart [fig., inner desire] will be also. (Luke 12:33-34 ALT)

Jesus has given us one of the most important principles for those who seek to enter His kingdom, and it refers to one's heart. We need to have hearts that are set on where our Lord is seated today. Set your mind above where Christ is seated (Colossians 3:1-2). He is among the celestials, and He has seated us there with Him (Ephesians 2:6). In other words, we are to seek after that which is heavenly or, as I prefer to call it, celestial. We are destined to be like Christ who is the Celestial One (1 Corinthians 15:49 CV). Just for information; I see the concept of the celestials as a realm of being rather than a place zillions of light years away from earth.

As I see it, we can seek after all the riches of the world and have our reward in this day and in this life, or we can seek for the true riches that are in Christ Jesus Himself and receive our reward in the coming kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. As seen in the current global financial crisis, wealth or earthly treasure can sprout wings and fly away, but the heavenly treasure, which is in Christ, cannot and never will be lost or stolen.

Well, we will return to Jesus' words on the matter, but first let us consider what Paul had to say about the love of money.

Love of money.

At the end of Paul's life, he warned Timothy that in the last days men would be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, without self-control, unholy, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power.

(1) But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. (2) For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, (3) unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, (4) treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, (5) holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these. (2 Timothy 3:1-5 NASB)

Is this not the day in which we live? Money seems to be the obsession of so many people. Just consider all the talk today about the global economy and, in particular, the need for the US consumer to start borrowing and spending again so that we can get back on the exponential-growth train that is barreling down a track that leads to a chasm filled with debt and with no bridge across it. In other words, it is leading toward destruction.

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Unfortunately, the obsession with money is rampant within certain quarters of **the church-at-large**. (See *The Upward Call*, issue 03-0936, March 4, 2009, *The Ecclesia Within The Church*, for an explanation of this term, as well as issues #03-0924-25, February 26 & 27, 2009, *The Love of Money #1 & #2*.)

We were warned nearly 2,000 years ago that men would be lovers of money, and, yet outwardly, they would have a form of godliness. This is our day.

Let me be clear that what is contained in this article is not a stand against money or a statement that the Lord's people are to live in poverty. God does prosper His people. He loves to bless His people because He is a loving heavenly Father. Blessing is to bring glory to God. But a blessing can turn into every form of greed that comes from the lust of the flesh. If the Lord blesses us with abundant supply, then we are to use it for His glory and not for your flesh. Money in itself is not evil. The issue is a matter of the heart. What do we love the most? Paul tells us what the problem is.

For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang. (1 Timothy 6:10 NASB)

The problem is the love of money, and this love presents a grave danger to the Lord's people. Longing for money can lead to moving away from **the faith**, which is a specific topic unto itself that will be taken up in a subsequent article. In other words, an outward form of godliness might be visible, but inwardly the heart is corrupted with other loves.

In Paul's letter to Timothy, he said that godliness is a means of gain.

(6) But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. (7) For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. (8) If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. (1 Timothy 6:6-8 NASB)

It is even more than gain; it is great gain, when accompanied by contentment. We have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. This is the word the beloved Paul left with Timothy very close to the time of his martyrdom in Rome. We need to hear!

Some people want to use Scripture to support their lust for money, and yet they ignore the many warnings and exhortations we are given. The spirit of the world has convinced some Christians that if they had a lot of money, they could do great things for God. God is not after what we can do for Him; He is after hearts that love Him above all else. As previously quoted, God endows those who love Him with wealth; He fills their treasuries.

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But what if the Lord does not provide great wealth to us, what are we to do? Do we blame it on our lack of faith? Do we blame it on the fact that we did not sow enough seed money to someone else's bank account? Do we blame it on the devil?

We should be reminded of Paul's word to the Philippians.

(11) Not that I speak in respect to need, for I learned to be content in whatever [state] I am. (12) I know both [how] to be living in humble circumstances, and I know [how] to be living in abundance; in every [place] and in all [circumstances] I have learned the secret of being filled and [of] being hungry, both to be living in abundance and to be having need. (13) I am capable of [doing] all [things] through Christ, the [One] strengthening me. (Philippians 4:11-13 ALT)

Are we content with whatever the Lord gives us or denies us?

Besides, prosperity is not necessarily a sign that all is well. Just consider the prophetic book of Amos. Israel and Judah were very prosperous, materially and militarily. God had blessed them, but they did not return to God; instead they were corrupt within. The Lord hated it! Why? Because their hearts were not for God! This is what the spirit of the world, which is the spirit of mystery Babylon, does to hearts. It corrupts and leads away from that which is heavenly. It leads away from a love of Christ. Oh, we can continue worshipping the Lord outwardly week after week, and yet inwardly we can have another love.

You cannot serve two masters.

The greatest danger is that we begin to serve money instead of God. It becomes the object of our affections and the drive of our daily life. The Lord Jesus Himself warns us.

“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” (Luke 16:13 NASB)

If we begin to serve money rather than God, we have chosen our lot with the Babylonian world, which will be judged. Do not be misled; the spirit of the world is strongly attached to money. The powers of darkness will do all they can to entice people with the glory of money, even for noble reasons.

If we love money, we will hate God. Why? Because having an abundance of money often leads people to trust in their riches and not in God. Just look at the world today, it is abundantly obvious what the world trusts the most. Why are the Babylonian leaders of our day scrambling to shore up the global financial system? Their power is based on this system and without it they will fall from their power and control over the people.

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(6) And the righteous will see and fear, and will laugh at him, {saying,} (7) “Behold, the man who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his riches, {and} was strong in his {evil} desire.” (Psalm 52:6-7 NASB)

We are warned not to be envious of those who are rich. Riches perish; they are not everlasting.

(16) Do not be afraid when a man becomes rich, when the glory of his house is increased; (17) for when he dies he will carry nothing away; His glory will not descend after him. (18) Though while he lives he congratulates himself—and though {men} praise you when you do well for yourself—(19) He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see the light. (20) Man in {his} pomp, yet without understanding, is like the beasts that perish. (Psalm 49:16-20 NASB)

Even Paul, at the end of his life, gave Timothy instruction. A desire for riches can lead to temptation. It brings false hope.

But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. (1 Timothy 6:9 NASB)

(17) Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. (18) {Instruct them} to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, (19) storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed. (1 Timothy 6:17-19 NASB)

God wants to provide for His children. He is a loving heavenly Father, but He wants us to come to Him, seek Him, and allow Him to be our provider in His way, not ours. As Paul reminded Timothy, God richly supplies us with all things to enjoy; so be ready to share generously and be rich in good works. Why are we richly supplied? To share and do good! This is our treasure for the future. This is life indeed!

James exhorted the rich.

(1) Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. (2) Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. (3) Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! (James 5:1-3 NASB)

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{Let} the rich man {glory} in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away. (James 1:10 NASB)

So we must see that there is much warning to those who are rich in this life. It does not mean that the Lord's people are never to be rich. The issue relates to the heart. Can you hold money lightly and use it to the glory of the Lord? Do you see money as a provision of the Lord to be used in His service, according to His will? Do you use money to serve God, not yourself? Do you see yourself as a steward of what God provides? Everything belongs to God. All that we have is His. We are called to be good stewards of His possessions.

The Lord's view of riches.

To add to this matter, let us consider the words of our Lord Jesus while He was on earth. He spoke a sobering word to the religious leaders, the Pharisees.

(14) Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things, and they were scoffing at Him. (15) And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God." (Luke 16:14-15 NASB)

Here we find religious leaders who were lovers of money. Men might be highly esteemed because of money, but this is detestable in the sight of God. This should be a warning to all of God's servants, particularly to church leaders who think they should be rich. But will your riches turn into a form of greed?

The Lord Jesus warns of greed.

"Beware of every form of greed." (Luke 12:15 NASB)

"But woe to you who are rich, for you are receiving your comfort in full." (Luke 6:24 NASB)

Consider the story of Lazarus, the poor man, and the rich man; both died (Luke 16:19-31). The Lord spoke this word to the Pharisees that loved money. They were receiving their reward in this life and would suffer by being excluded in the coming kingdom of our Lord. The lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes are powerful forces upon the hearts of men, but the world is passing away and also its lusts; the one who does the will of God abides forever (1 John 2:17).

And what did the Lord tell the rich young ruler to do?

(22) And when Jesus heard {this,} He said to him, "One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess, and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. ... (24) How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God! (25) For it is

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easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” (Luke 18:22, 24-25 NASB)

This rich man had much to lose in selling all. He lacked one thing in the eyes of the Lord. He was still earthly minded and holding onto his wealth that he had gained at the expense of his fellow countrymen that had fallen on hard times. He was not content with his inheritance in the land, so he took the inheritance of others that had fallen on hard times. Consequently, he had more than enough to live on, but his wealth was his security and the Lord revealed where true security lies.

Why is it that rich men will have a difficult time entering the kingdom? They lack nothing in their eyes. They are secure in their wealth. They have no need to trust God. On the other hand, those who are poor know no other way than to trust in God. They have no security here on earth. It seems that there is actually blessing in being poor. The Lord sent a message to John the Baptist while he was in prison: **“The poor have the gospel preached to them”** (Matthew 11:5).

In Luke 6:20, the Lord said, **“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.”** If we could only see that this matter of our treasure relates to entering into the kingdom. Oh, let us get our eyes off of the kingdom of man and onto the kingdom of our Lord. When we do, we will discover that God will provide. Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. This is where the true treasure is. It is in His kingdom. It is in His righteousness. We are to live today with a view to the coming kingdom.

Do we dare to seek first His kingdom and trust God to meet all our needs? Seek God with a pure heart, a whole heart, an undivided heart, and believe in His Son. He will pour out His blessings upon all who seek Him, who seek to know Him, who seek to be counted worthy to enter into His kingdom. Our Father has chosen gladly to give us the kingdom (Luke 12:31-32). This is the Father’s desire for us. Why? Because in His kingdom are all the spiritual blessings. Nothing is lacking.

Many people quote Matthew 7:7: **“Ask, and it shall be given to you.”** And yet, they become discouraged when the things they ask for do not come. But both James and John give us further instruction. James says, **“You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures”** (James 4:3). John says, **“And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us {in} whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him”** (1 John 5:14-15 NASB).

The issue is motive and knowing God’s will. We need to wake up! What is our motive? Do we desire to see God glorified in our lives? Do we desire to enter into His kingdom? Do we trust God to reveal His will in our lives and believe Him for that will? Do we desire His righteousness?

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Sell all your possessions.

Returning to our Master's words, the Lord Jesus exhorted His disciples as He sent them out into the harvest.

(33) "Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves purses which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near, nor moth destroys. (34) For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Luke 12:33-34 NASB)

The One who came out of heaven could look around at the things of the earth and compare them to that which is in heaven. What a contrast He must have seen. The things of earth wear out, are never really secure from thieves or from insects that destroy things for their own survival. Everything on earth is under the weight of sin and has no lasting value. Jesus was telling them that only that which is heavenly has value. All else will fail, but that which is in heaven is unfailing. He told them not to put their hope in earthly treasure, but in heavenly treasure.

What does it mean to sell all? A history of the early church indicates that this was taken literally. To follow the Lord, they gave up all their earthly possessions. Possessions can be a hindrance. We have to protect them, preserve them, and manage them. The more we possess, the more time we must devote to them.

In Hebrews 12:1, we are told to lay aside every encumbrance so that we can run the race that is set before us. Some may not be called to sell all that they possess, but the issue is whether something is an encumbrance or not. Does it hinder our walk with the Lord? Does it hold us back from going on with the Lord? Does it keep us from being changed into the likeness of Christ? Do we become more holy and righteous in our walk? Again, it is a heart issue. How do we possess money? Is it merely a tool to serve God or is it a possession for the satisfaction of the flesh? Does it wear us down and keep us from running the race? Is it stealing our heart away from God?

The treasure is a matter of the kingdom. We are to seek His kingdom now. We come poor, for what do we have in our possession that would be of any value in God's kingdom? If we are faithful today, in the coming day of our Lord Jesus, we will possess all the riches of the kingdom.

The wisdom of the world is all vanity.

It seems that much of the church's emphasis on money borders on begging and greed and is pulling the Lord's people from the truth of the gospel. It is even persuading them to follow a gospel other than the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is a most serious matter!

Just today as I was reediting this article, I briefly watched a televangelism broadcast by a well-known faith healer. He had a guest on his show, and this is the

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one who was talking. It was the end of the show and, as is almost always the case, the appeal for money was being made. This preacher of prosperity was telling viewers that God told him to ask people to sow their seed of \$200, not the usual \$100 or \$1,000, but \$200. This surprised him, but he had to be “obedient to God.” Of course, the money flowed in much to his satisfaction and as a witness to him that this was of the Lord. He then told listeners to send in the \$200 now, for it requires “swift obedience.” He also spoke using such terms as “promotion” and “expectation.” It wasn’t just seed money but promotion money with an expectation. He then concluded by telling people that there would be a special blessing if they put it on their credit card, for *perhaps* God would cancel out all their debt. I found this last plea sort of interesting since God is against the system of credit and usury. See *The Upward Call*, issue #03-0967, February 17, 2009, *The Kingdom of Our Lord #7. The Law Against Usury*. I contend that such techniques come from the financial beast of mystery Babylon and not the kingdom of God.

It should grieve our hearts to hear of pastors who are pleading for money from the assembly to support a lavish lifestyle of homes, cars, and expensive suits, while many of the assembly live in poverty. Some time ago, it was reported that there was a pastor who taught against caring for the poor. Instead, he told his congregation to give him money so that they would be blessed and get rich. This was false, heretical teaching that builds up the flesh of man and goes against the very word of God. James, Peter, John and Paul knew nothing of this sort of false teaching. In the hand of fellowship, they agreed together: “**Remember the poor**” (Galatians 2:10).

Some people even quote Ecclesiastes 10:19 that states money is the answer to everything. The world thinks that money is the answer to all things, and from Babylon’s view, it is a true statement. **This is the wisdom of the world from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.** But dear beloved, is this God’s view? Consider the context of these words. The Preacher concluded: “**Vanity of vanities, all is vanity!**” In the end, he said:

(13) The conclusion, when all has been heard, {is:} fear God and keep His commandments, because this {applies to} every person. (14) For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 NASB)

Fear God and keep His commandments. What commandments are we to follow? Love God and love one another! How can we say we love one another if we take money from saints to use for our own fleshly lust?

Christ our true treasure.

Many years ago when we were in Africa, we heard pastors preaching that Jesus wore designer clothes because they cast lots for His garments; so He was a rich man, and we should be rich too. This is the foolishness of man that creates silly controversies! It tries to lower our Lord Jesus down to the pitiful standard of man.

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Jesus is the Son of man who had no place to lay His head, and yet He possessed all the riches of heaven. But these riches are spiritual in nature; they are of the highest moral character—righteousness and holiness. We cannot buy these divine qualities nor are they in us; we must receive them in the life of our Lord Jesus. This is why we are exhorted to seek His righteousness.

This fleshly emphasis on money has led to a different gospel other than the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are all sinners who need to be saved by the love and grace of God through faith. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. This saving grace comes only through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit to reveal our true condition and need for a Savior. If a gospel is being preached that tells people to come into a church, to join it, to have their needs met and to become rich, it is not the gospel; it is a false gospel. People coming in this way are, most likely, not saved and are coming into a false hope that will leave them lying in the heap of world ruin.

Jesus Christ is our only hope! He is the only way!

Riches won't do it; designer clothes won't do it; only God's Son can save us. When we are saved and called out of the world, we are to be conformed to the image of God's Son, who is our righteousness and holiness. This is what the gospel is all about. True riches are spiritual in nature. They are the very character of Christ. Again, Jesus said:

(19) “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. (20) But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven ... (21) for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21 NASB)

Where is your treasure? If it is on earth, then you have something that is fading away. Just look around you in this day of economic crisis. True riches relate to Christ Himself. Oh, don't you know that God has made us alive together with Christ and raised us up and seated us in the heavenly places (among the celestials), in Christ Jesus, and has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (among the celestials) in Christ?

Blessed {be} the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly {places} in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3 NASB)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who blesses us with every spiritual blessing among the celestials, in Christ....
(Ephesians 1:3 CV)

(4) But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (6) and

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raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly {places}, in Christ Jesus, (7) in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4-7 NASB)

(5) (We also being dead to the offenses and the lusts), vivifies us together in Christ (in grace are you saved!) (6) and rouses us together and seats us together among the celestials, in Christ Jesus, (7) that, in the oncoming eons, He should be displaying the transcendent riches of His grace in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:5-7 CV)

Where are our spiritual blessings? Among the celestials in Christ! Do you see the greatness of these words? God, rich in mercy! God showing forth the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus! What are riches? His mercy! His grace! See Article #1, September 2007, *Christ, Who Is Our Life*.

Where is our true treasure? In heaven! Among the celestials! What is our treasure? It is our beloved Lord Jesus in whom are all blessings, all the treasures of heaven, all the mercy and grace of God. These are God's riches bestowed upon us in His beloved Son.

The Lord's exhortation to buy from Him.

The Lord exhorts the ecclesia of our day through His word to the Laodiceans, which many believe is the primary condition of the church on earth at the end of the eon (age).

(14) "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: (15) 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. (16) So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. (17) Because you say, 'I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,' and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, (18) I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and {that} the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. (19) Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent. (20) Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.'" (Revelation 3:14-20 NASB)

We have come through the day of the Laodicean ecclesia. "I am rich and have become wealthy and have need of nothing." The world and all its possessions have stolen the hearts of many, leading to lukewarmness toward the Lord. It is over! In case you haven't noticed, God is judging **the financial beast system of**

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mystery Babylon, and the church that is attached to it. The Lord is standing outside the door of it all, especially the heart of the lukewarm. He is knocking and calling His people to repent. **“Those whom I love, I reprove!”** He is calling out to His conquerors, the ones with ears to hear and hearts to respond, the ones that conquer in the midst of the Laodicean era.

He says to buy from Him gold refined by fire, which represents divine character, the righteousness of God. Do you want to become rich? Then by grace receive from Him the very character of God which is found only in Christ. This is true riches—to be full of our Lord Jesus. If we possess Christ, we are the richest in the world.

He then says to His ecclesia to buy from Him white garments, which represent the righteous acts of the saints. Divine character is to produce righteous acts. But where does our righteousness come from? It only comes from our Lord Jesus, who is our righteousness. Wearing designer clothes or not wearing them could be an indication of where our treasure is, but it has absolutely no value whatsoever as far as our righteousness before God is concerned. Let us be clothed with Christ.

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (Galatians 3:27 NASB)

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to {its} lusts. (Romans 13:14 NASB)

...and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him...
(Colossians 3:10 NASB)

...and put on the new self, which in {the likeness of} God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. (Ephesians 4:24 NASB)

What is this new self? It is Christ Himself. We must see that we are clothed with His righteousness, and by faith we must believe that we are in Him. We are to appropriate this fact every day. Please understand that our righteousness and holiness are not based on what we wear or how we look. We can get all dressed up and look so handsome or pretty on the outside and yet be dead on the inside. This is nothing but a whitewashed tomb. Before God, it is nakedness. **Oh, who has bewitched you; having begun in the spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh** (Galatians 3:1, 3)? Have we become foolish, trying to work out our salvation in the flesh and, even worse, allowing the flesh to rule our lives instead of the spirit of God?

Don't you know that we have been clothed with Christ, the righteousness of God? We have no righteousness in ourselves, the old self. The new self is the very life and character of the One who has taken up residence in us. It is His righteousness and His righteous acts that come from His life.

WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS...IN CHRIST

Finally, we are exhorted to buy salve for our eyes from Him so that we may see. If we are blind it is because we have taken our eyes off the lover of our life, the One who died for us and is coming for us. We have been distracted by many things and have failed to see the One thing.

We need our eyes opened to see Him, the one true love of our life, the only love who will never leave us nor forsake us.

Oh, let us wake up and seek God's treasure!

Scripture Abbreviations:

ALT	Analytical Literal Translation
CV	Concordant Version
NASB	New American Standard Bible

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