

Amassing Treasures

↙
↘

GATHERING UP OVER TIME
SOMETHING HIGHLY VALUED

- What treasures do people (want to) amass?
- Is it good or bad to amass treasure?
- Jesus taught: amass some treasures, but not others...

Amassing Treasures
Matthew 6:19-24

Chinese: page 1566
Spanish: page 1220
Brown: page 971
Green: page 661

“Sermon on the Mount”

Matthew 5-7

- “Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.” *Matthew 5:1-2*

- Je
- In

**SUCH HIGH STANDARDS ARE HARD TO LIVE WITH!
SO WHERE'S THE HOPE???**

- Yet it describes what is good, right, and expected
 - Sometimes, lowering the standards is a bad idea!
 - Like brain surgery ... and the Kingdom of God

Matthew 6:19-24

19-21: Earthly treasures will always be lost or destroyed
Heavenly treasures are secure forever

22-23: • Vermin = wild animal pests

24: • Natural and human forces destroy
all earthly treasures

- Heart = source for the rest of one's life
- Secure and insecure treasures affect the whole life

Chinese: page 1566

Spanish: page 1220

Brown: page 971

Green: page 661

Matthew 6:19-24

19-21: Earthly treasures will be lost or destroyed
 Heavenly treasures are secure forever

22-23: Good and bad eyes fill the whole life today

- “healthy” can also mean “generous”
- “unhealthy” can also mean “stingy”
- Where our treasure is, our heart will be
- Our hearts are changed by the location of treasure

24:

Matthew 6:19-24

19-21: Earthly treasures will be lost or destroyed
 Heavenly treasures are secure forever

22-23: Good and bad eyes fill the whole life today

24: You can't balance heaven and earth

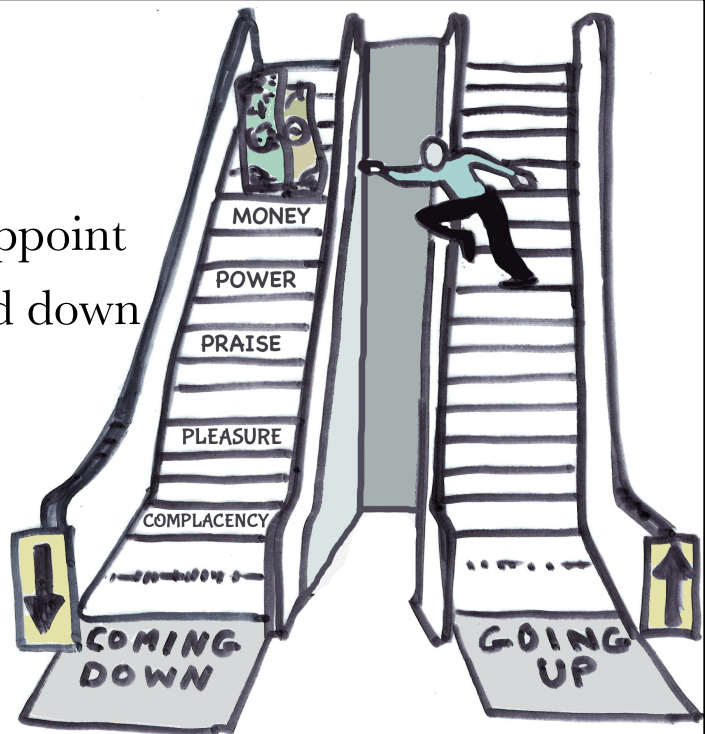
- Heavenly treasure is always what is lost

The Big Idea

A life focused on God in Christ
is amassing guaranteed treasures in heaven
and brings a being full of light today

A life focused on treasure in this life
is guaranteed for disappointment
and brings darkness to the whole of life

Where your treasure is,
 there your heart will be
 Earthly treasures tempt us,
 yet are guaranteed to disappoint
 Attempts to “balance” up and down
 result in **falling down**



The Big Idea

**A life focused on God in Christ
is amassing guaranteed treasures in heaven
and brings a being full of light today**

**A life focused on treasure in this life
is guaranteed for disappointment
and brings darkness to the whole of life**

Application

Action	Repent / turn from... <u>Earthly Treasure</u>	Joyfully pursue... <u>Heavenly Treasures</u>
Why	Guaranteed to be lost Pursuit darkens the whole being	
Examples	Money and things Power Praise, success, & self-fulfillment Self-justification Pleasure Complacency	

Heavenly Treasure

- The ceiling effect
 - Imagine a Pass/Fail class
 - Why try for a perfect grade?
 - If we are guaranteed the riches of heaven, why do more?
 - But it seems that we aren't guaranteed ALL the riches of heaven...
- Jesus commanded that we pursue heavenly treasure
 - “Store up for yourselves treasure in heaven.”
- God promises additional heavenly rewards
 - “Each will receive his wages according to his labor...”
 - “Rejoice when persecuted, for great is your reward...”

Heavenly Treasure

- Isn't it selfish to want heavenly treasure?
 - Like the joy of marriage or beautiful art, heavenly treasures will be a shared delight
- Rather, how tragic if we are not interested in the heavenly treasure God wants to give us!

Heavenly Treasure

- But aren't our best deeds as filthy rags in God's eyes?
 - Sin touches every part of us and everything we do
- And yet...
 - Jesus said the Spirit would empower us to do greater works than Jesus!
 - God rejoices in our growing godliness
 - “The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.” *Psalm 147:11*
 - When we love our enemies and pray for those who curse us
 - When we fight for holiness
 - When we generously give to those who can't repay

Heavenly Treasure

- What might heavenly treasures be?
 - The delight of God in us: “Well done!”
 - His pleasure and our pleasure are deeply intertwined
 - Wonderful work that is a delight to us and others
 - “Because you have been trustworthy, take charge of ten cities”
 - Maybe: Delight-full gifts from our heavenly Father
 - “If you know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more your Father in heaven!”

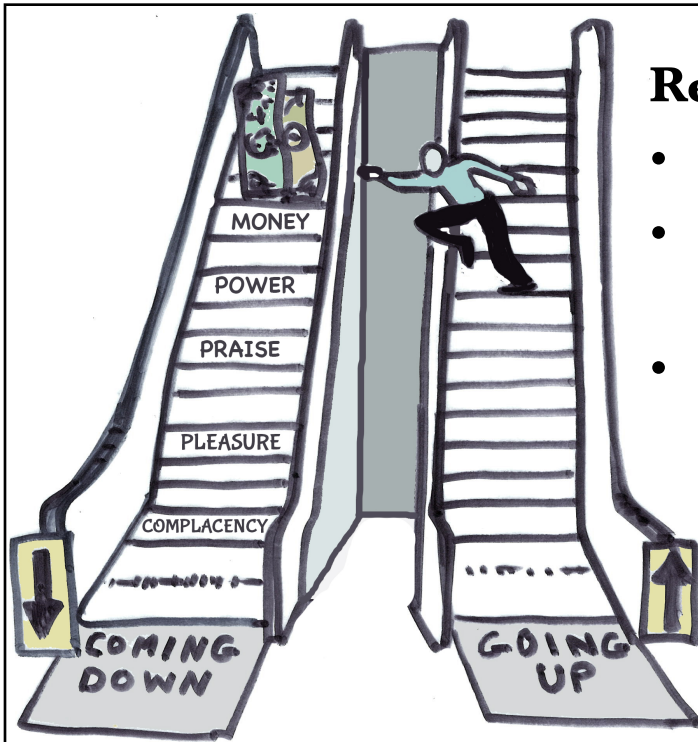
<i>Application</i>		
Action	Repent / turn from... <u>Earthly Treasure</u>	Joyfully pursue... <u>Heavenly Treasures</u>
Why	Guaranteed to be lost Pursuit darkens the whole being	Guaranteed to be secure Pursuit brings light to the whole being
Examples	Money and things Power Praise, success, & self-fulfillment Self-justification Pleasure Complacency	Please God Fully obey His commands Love your enemy Bless those who curse you Generously meet the needs of others Flee the traps of human praise Determinedly pursue God-likeness

The Big Idea

**A life focused on God in Christ
is amassing **guaranteed treasures in heaven**
and **brings a being full of light today****

**Attempting to balance heavenly treasure
and earthly treasure is impossible!**

THE HEAVENLY TREASURE IS THE ONE WE LOSE...



Rewards waiting at the top

- God's delight!
- Wonderful work, for our joy and others' good
- Delight-full gifts from a generous Father

**In addition to a life
being filled
with light today!**

The Big Idea

**A life focused on God in Christ
is amassing guaranteed treasures in heaven
and brings a being full of light today**

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Colossians 3:1-2

“Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...” by setting your hearts and lives on Christ today