

2 Corinthians 8:8 ⁸ qI speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the ⁿforwardness of others, and ^{qq}to prove the sincerity of ^oyour love.

2 Corinthians 8:24 ²⁴ Wherefore shew ye to them, and ^xbefore the churches, the proof of ^yyour love, and of ^zour boasting on your behalf.

Matthew 6:19-34

9 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹ **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.** ²² The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. ²³ But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great *is* that darkness!

²⁴ **No man can serve two masters:** for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. **Ye cannot serve God and mammon.** ²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, **Take no thought for your life**, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? ²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? ²⁷ Which of you by **taking thought** can add one cubit unto his stature? ²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: ²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he not much more clothe* you, O ye of little faith? ³¹ Therefore **take no thought**, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. ³³ But **seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.** ³⁴ **Take therefore no thought for the morrow:** for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

There are four commands in this passage which make up the preaching points.

1. Command #1: Don't accumulate wealth that you won't use for His work. ⁹ **Lay not**

up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust

doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

a. This verse implies warnings against self-indulgence.

i. You'll never be satisfied by riches. Ecclesiastes 5:10 ¹⁰ He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth ^sabundance with increase: this *is* also vanity.

ii. The Lord will eventually destroy all earthly things. Isaiah 24:1 Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.

iii. If you Self-indulge with what is earthly, that will soon be destroyed, it will lead to your own destruction. 1 Timothy 6:9 ⁹ But ^zthey that will be rich fall into temptation and ^aa snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, ^bwhich drown men in destruction and perdition.

b. It is an unwise choice because of the threats against earthly wealth. Proverbs 23:5

⁵ ^tWilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? For ^griches certainly make themselves wings; They fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

i. It's foolish to horde treasures because they're easily corrupted, then by moth and rust, now by inflation, and disaster.

ii. Earthly treasures are fragile and short lasting.

iii. It's foolish to horde treasures susceptible to thieves and robbers.

iv. It's foolish to horde treasures because we're soon to die. Luke 12:16–21

¹⁶ And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: ¹⁷ And he ^xthought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to ^ybestow my fruits? ¹⁸ And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my ^zbarns, and build greater; and there will I ^ybestow all my fruits and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, ^aSoul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* ^bbe merry. ²⁰ But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, ^cthis night ^dthy soul shall be required of thee: then ^ewhose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? ²¹ So *is* he that ^flayeth up treasure for himself, and ^gis not rich toward God.

c. **“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth!”**

2. Second Command: Do use your resources for the use of God's kingdom ²⁰ **But lay**

up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor

rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

a. You should view what you have as resource for getting out the gospel.

b. Verse 20 implies using earthly resources as investment for a reward eternal

riches. Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. ²⁶ For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

- c. It's a swap of earthly resources for heavenly treasure that will never fade or be stolen. **20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:**
- d. The apostle Paul is someone who gave it all, and suffered greatly but wasn't ashamed of his choices. **12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.**
 - i. The "cause" is the Gospel, the cost of telling others about who Jesus is.
 - ii. "These things" is Paul's present sufferings, particularly his imprisonment and pending death.
 - iii. "I am not ashamed" speaks of his life choices, giving all he has for the gospel.
 - iv. "I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him" Paul knew his investment was safe.
 - v. "that day" The day when the Lord repays all who gave. **Matt 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.**
 - vi. Did it ever occur to you that God is capable to get the message of the Gospel out without our giving and effort?
 - 1. God has a plan and purpose for us in giving.
 - 2. If God is willing to give us with eternal life just because He loves us, what is He willing to reward us with for our loyalty?

e. Our hearts always follow our treasure. ²¹ **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**

- i. We cannot straddle the fence with our God and our money.
- ii. We cannot try to serve both. ²⁴ **No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.**
 - 1. Bible meaning for love and hate = choose or not choose.
 - 2. Not emotional, but choice.
 - 3. People can get worked up emotions for God, but still reject Him with their choices.
- iii. We will end up choosing one and rejecting the other.
- iv. What is your favorite restaurant?
 - 1. Do I have to convince you to go to your favorite restaurant? Brow beat you? Twist your arm? Guilt trip you?
 - 2. What about God? For those that say God is our favorite do we need a guilt trip?
 - 3. Those that love God, love God with their resources and money.
- v. God wants your heart, and you can't give Him your heart without giving Him your treasure.
- vi. Give Him your heart, Give Him your treasure, until He becomes your treasure.

3. Third Command: Don't Worry. ²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, **Take no thought**

for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body,

what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

- a. "Take no thought" = Don't worry, it doesn't mean you don't plan ahead, or make smart decisions.
- b. Don't worry even of the most basic survival needs.
- c. Trust God with the issues pertaining to this life.
- d. God cares for what seems the least important. ²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? ²⁷ Which of you by **taking thought** can add one cubit unto his stature? ²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: ²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? ³¹ Therefore **take no thought**, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.
- e. God make provisions for the birds.
- f. God make provisions for plants, grass, and flowers.
- g. How much more valuable are we to God than these things?

- h. Can we add one inch to our height by worrying about it?
- i. Stop worrying, God knows our need.
- j. Worrying about stuff God says He'll take care of is offensive to God.
- k. It's the opposite of faith.
- l. Without faith we cannot please God.

4. Fourth Commandment: Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God. ³³ But **seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

- a. The priority of the disciple is the Gospel.
- b. It's the one task God has laid on shoulders of believers.
- c. We simplify our lives with the Gospel.
- d. We take away anything in our life that does not enable us to put His kingdom first.
- e. People want simpler lives.
- f. People want to understand God's will.
- g. God's will is simple.
- h. God's will for His people is to be about the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- i. Our faith rests upon the promises of God.
- j. God promise to take care of the needs of those who take care for the Kingdom.
- k. After take an inventory of your life, is the way you're life organize as so to fulfill the Gospel first?
- l. Is there anywhere in your life unsurrendered?
- m. Will you surrender it?

- n. Would the Lord Jesus recognize you as a Kingdom seeker?
- o. Are you getting better at seeking the Kingdom of God?
- p. Does your worrying betray your faith?
- q. Do others see how by worrying belittles God?

Closing Call:

Where are your treasures laying?

Are they being invested in the Gospel, in getting Jesus to people?

To the church: Does our money reports prove our love for God?

The important thing is not what you do with your money today, the important thing is that you love God.

“For where your treasure is, there where your heart be also.”