

The way we live and act does clearly demonstrate where our treasure lies, whether with God for eternity, or this passing world. In essence, everything about us has its origin in the heart, as Jesus said in Luke 12:34, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

If we claim Christ as Savior, shouldn't we also echo what Deut 7:6 says? "For you *are* a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth?"

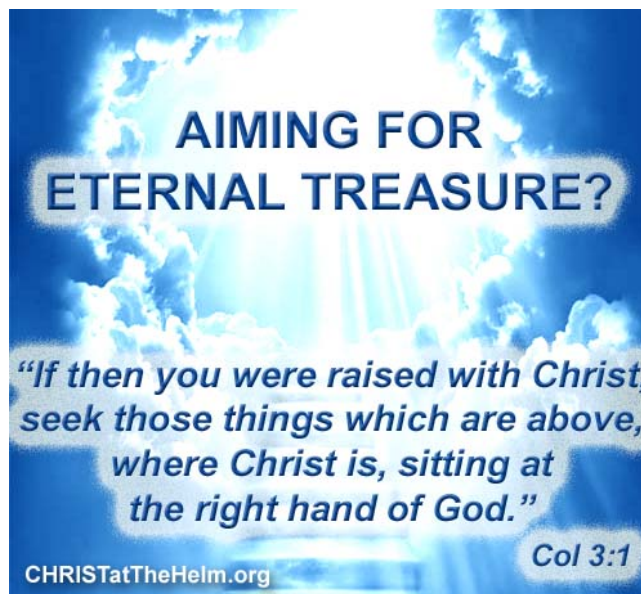
The apostle in 1Peter 2:9 expanded, "But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

In all truth, we must consistently, as Paul said in 2Cor 13:5, "Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?"

Interestingly, Pro 13:7 says, "There is one who makes himself rich, yet *has* nothing; and one who makes himself poor, yet *has* great riches." Then, Pro 15:16: "Better *is* a little with the fear of the LORD, than great treasure with trouble"?

Is our treasure with God in Christ, or is it with the world?

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As believers in Christ who have been indwelt with His Spirit, we should heed the command of Jesus in Mat 6:19-20, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal?"

In Mat 6:33 He showed us how; "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

Paul explained why in Eph 2:10, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." In Rom 12:2 he added, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

What should our life focus then be?

Philip 3:14, "I Press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus?"

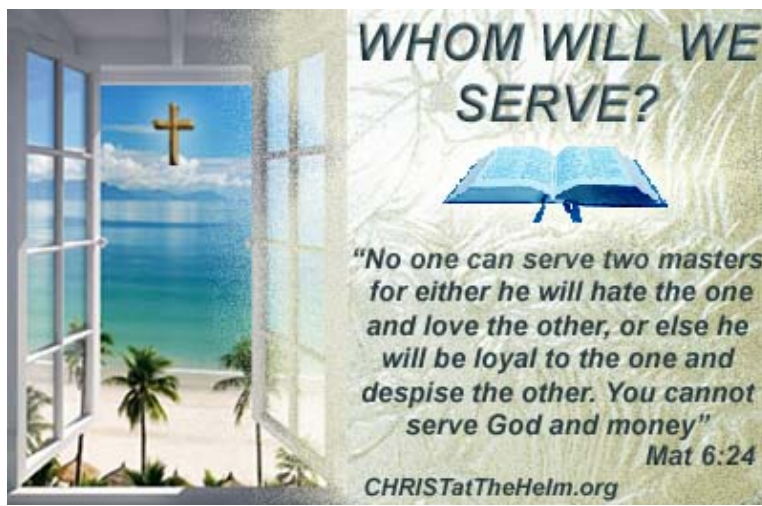
Col 3:2: "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

In light of this, let's ask ourselves:

Are the world's treasures the focus of my life, or is my heart set on seeking God above all?

Have I considered the short span of this life, in light of eternity to come?

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Traveling from point "A" to point "B" requires we follow the road that will get us to our destination, and not simply follow the wind, right? In the same manner, whenever we set goals, we must strive to aim our thoughts and actions in the direction that will get us to our destination. Then why, if we profess belief in Christ and having made the decision to follow Him, would we allow ourselves to follow a path that takes us in the direction of the world, away from God?

Jesus warned us in Luke 12:15, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Paul in 1Tim 6:10 explained, "For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

Then in 1Tim 6:17 he warned, "Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy."

In the same vein, Pro 28:22 cautions us, "A man with an evil eye hastens after riches, and does not consider that poverty will come upon him."

In truth, we either aim for the Kingdom of God or the world. Where does our heart point towards right now?

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Perseverance is defined as exercising steady persistence and continued effort to do or achieve something, despite life's difficulties, challenges, failures, or opposition. In essence, it is a matter of faith in God and the determination in our hearts that drives us to persevere and trust God.

James 5:7-8 brings the element of patience in trusting the Lord; "Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."

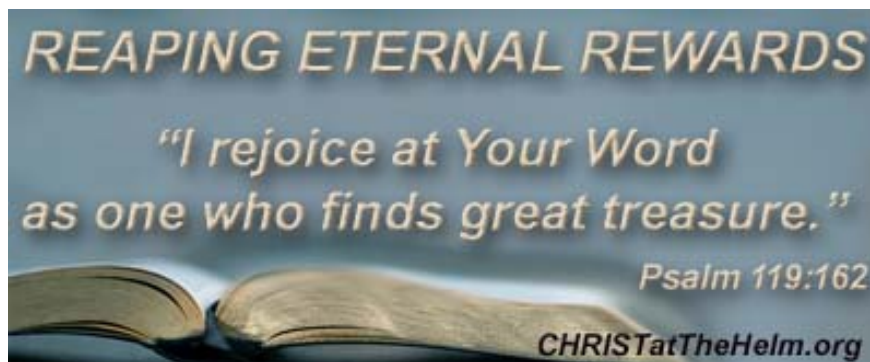
Obviously, we must be patient and persevere through difficulties and challenges, as we trust God in this life and for eternity. The reason Gal 6:9 says, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

God through the prophet in Is 41:10 said, "Fear not, for I *am* with you; be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

In truth, perseverance in striving to know and follow Christ is the true expression and proof of our faith in God.

Will we trust God, focus our hearts on His promises, and persevere even through life's challenges?

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How could we define the treasure that awaits us in Christ, “as we aim for the Kingdom of God”, “as we avoid futile pursuits that can only lead us to destruction”, and “as we persevere even under challenges and trials”?

Ps 37:23-24 tells us, “The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholds *him with* His hand.”

Ps 32:10 says, “Many sorrows *shall be* to the wicked; but he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him.”

Philip 4:19 add, “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

The reason as well Pro 2, verses 1 and 5 says: “My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you,” Verse 5: “Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.”

Finally, Is 58:11 tell us, “You shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.”

In essence, if our hearts are truly focused on God, not only will we be sustained by the Lord, but as well we will be imparted with discernment and wisdom, and we rejoice in knowing the eternal life with Christ that awaits us.

Will we choose the fleeting pleasures of the world, or eternal treasure in Christ?

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