

Making the right investments

August 16, 2020

Today we want to speak on making the right spiritual investments.

Jesus told us to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven. Mt. 6:19-20:

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where [everything decays] and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven ...”

We are to invest more in eternal things, things that lasts forever.
Invest more in your heavenly home, than your earthly home.

Two major things we take with us

At the moment we die, and our spirit comes out of her body...

What are we taking with us? Nothing tangible! Home, money, business
But we are taking Two major things into the next Life.

1. First of all we are taking our character, our relationship with God.
And what we have allowed God to do in our heart during this short life.
Are we conformed to his image, are we compatible to him?
How much of the fruit of the Spirit is in our lives?
How much have we allowed God's light to search our hearts?
This determines how close we will be to him in eternity.

2. Also, what we have invested in people. People are eternal.
People are part of our inheritance, our reward, our crown.
Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 2:19:

What is our hope or joy or crown, you are, at the coming of the Lord.
When we get to heaven, we want to see many others we have brought.
Leading them to Christ, counseling them, teaching them, praying.

Revelation 14:13 it says: blessed are they who die in the Lord. And their works do follow them. Our good works follow us into eternity.

Revelation 22:12 “Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”

The Bible is summed up in two things

Jesus was asked, What is the greatest commandment of all?

The Lord replied, it is actually two things: to love God, and people.

Upon these 2 Commandments hang all the teaching of the law/ prophets.

Matthew 22:36-40 -“Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these 2 commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Here's a summary of the whole Bible, capsuled in two things:

Loving God with all your heart. Having divine character. And loving people.

These are the two things we take with us into eternity.

Our character, the condition of our heart toward God.

And people — people are eternal. What we've invested in people.

Upon these 2 things, are based all the teaching of the law / prophets.

So what do we want to invest in during this short life?

Our character, becoming like our heavenly bridegroom. Compatible.

And people, loving people, bringing them to Christ. People are eternal.

Psalm 2:8 - ask of me and I will give you nations for your inheritance.

People are our inheritance! Our reward, our Crown.

Let's talk now about counterfeit riches / rewards - Money

We are talking about what we should invest in during this short life. What can we take with us into the next life? What are the eternal riches? The spirit of this world offers many counterfeits. MONEY's one of them

In Genesis 13:2, it says that Abraham was very rich. And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. He was very rich. But that's not where his heart was. In Genesis 15:1, "Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

The Lord himself was Abraham's treasure, his exceeding great reward. He saw his eternal position near the Lord in heaven.. Abraham had seen new Jerusalem, he saw his place in heaven. Heb.11:9-10 - he looked for a city, whose builder and maker was God.

Let's read it: "By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in [tents] with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

Abraham was very rich, but this is not where his heart was. He saw heaven, he saw the Lord, he had eternal vision. His heart was not in earthly riches. He was willing to live in tents. Its so important to have eternal vision, to invest in things that are eternal.

Are we investing in our heavenly home?

**What kind of house do you want when you get to heaven?
Some People have been shown their heavenly house.
I would like to mention several examples here:**

A pastors wife told us this story about seeing her parents home in heaven. At age 15, she was taken to heaven in a vision. She was shown mansions of her father and mother. They were beautiful. She learned that our heavenly home is made up of our works on earth. By our works here on earth, we are sending up material to build our home. Our heavenly home is constructed by our good works here on earth. Her parents were very godly, and both had beautiful mansions.

Then she was told, - Now I want to show you your mansion. No when she came to the site of her heavenly home, she was horrified. All that she saw was a few building materials laying on the ground. The heavenly messenger said, this is all material you have supplied us. This experience was life-changing for her. Later, she awoke. From that time forward, he started investing in her heavenly home. Her lifestyle began to change, she began living a devout, godly life. She began sending up building material for her eternal heavenly home.

Another woman was taken to heaven. She was looking down at many mansions, and she said to the angel: Oh I love that mansion over there, I want a mansion just like that! The angel said, You do not qualify for this..... Because of the way you talk about your pastor. We can actually disqualify ourselves from eternal rewards... By our words, by our attitudes, by our actions.

Dr. Bailey told us this story. He was a temporary pastor in a certain place. A wealthy elder in the Church promised to have him in his house ... But later changed his mind. Putting he and his wife in the church garage. There it was very hot, many bugs, could look through the cracks in the floor But they kept their attitudes right... it was a test! Then the Holy Spirit said: I want to show you your heavenly home. An Angel escorted him in heaven.

Dr. Bailey was taken to heaven where he met certain angels.

They were going to escort him to his house.

Dr. Bailey kept saying: Oh, all I want to see is the Lord!

The angels said nothing, and just smiled. He kept repeating the same thing.

Then they came to his house. He kept walking all around the house.

Finally, he looked into one of the windows, and there was the Lord.

The Lord was sitting in the chair, smiling at him, and waving to him.

Wow, what kind of the house do you want when you get to heaven?

It all depends on how we are living our life here on earth.

Are we investing in our heavenly home, or mainly our earthly home?

Are we living for this short temporary life? Or our eternal home?

Are we seeking God's honor, or man's?

One of the greatest reasons people do not go to heaven,

Is because they love the praise of men more than the praise of God.

John 12:43* For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

We humans are too people conscious. A great weakness of human heart.

We are overly concerned about what people, friends, family, think of us.

We need to be more concerned about what God thinks of us, not people.

Many people sell their soul for the praise of men,

To have earthly temporary positions of power and prestige.

These positions only last a few years, then there is eternal misery.

One former American president danced with joy at age 15, when baptized.

But he had other things in his heart. He wanted prestige and power, and compromised all his Christian values. Later he became president.

He is not in heaven today.

Another president, before becoming president, was in a revival meeting. The evangelist said, everyone who wants to go to heaven - standup. Everyone stood up, except this particular man who wanted to be president. The evangelist said, Sir, don't you want to go to heaven too. NO he answered. I want to go to the White House. Later he became president, And that is where his spirit is today! He's Not in heaven, after he died his spirit remained in the White House, A number of people have seen this man's spirit in the White House. There he is, observing all the agonies of every president who followed. All he has is eternal judgment waiting for him. A man who wanted the praise men and power, authority, a great name.

Harold McMillan, prime minister of England said this:
Oh, Power, it's nothing. Empty.

A great leader in Europe who helped the cause against the Nazi's WW2 Was later asked, Sir, are you ready to meet your Maker? His reply was: Is my Maker ready to meet me. Proud, arrogant. He's been seen down in hell, in a terrible cloud of depression... Trying to make great speeches, with no one to listen to him. Yes, a great name for a few years on earth, now in eternal misery.

Even King Solomon, who wrote the beautiful proverbs, Became very careless in his position as king. Ministry, of itself, does not satisfy. Solomon was miserable. At the end of his life he said, everything is meaningless, is vanity.

Paul said all of our life's works will be tried by fire. I Cor. 3:13-14
"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

Vision of two people before the judgment seat

Remember, before the judgment seat all our life's works will be tried by fire. There was seen a great evangelist, standing before an angel, His hands were full of what represented his life's works. There was much. The angel took all these works from his hands, and put them into Gods fire. Amazingly, nearly everything was burned up. He looked successful, but he did things his way. Nearly all of his life works were burned up. He had very little reward left.

Then, there was a little widow woman, not as many works in her hands. The angel smiled, took her life's works, and put them into God's fire. Nearly everything remained. She actually had more than the evangelist. Remember, all our works are going to be tried by fire. For what remains, we will be rewarded. Let's do things God's way.

Proverbs 22:1 states: a good name is more to be desired than the finest silver or gold. We want a good and honorable name, good character. God's respect. That is something we take with us into eternity. May we allow God to search our hearts, and make us eternally honorable.

Other eternal investments

- Invest in your family, your sons and daughters. We reap what we sow. What you plant in your children, you will reap. Plant good and eternal seeds in your children. Teach them eternal values.

Invest in your marriage. He that loves his wife loves himself.

Eph 5:28* So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

**When you are good to your wife, you are being good to yourself.
She is bone of your bone and flesh of your flesh. Wives also.
When you are kind to your husband, you are being good to yourself.
A husband and wife are one flesh. Good to the other is good to yourself.
Be forgiving, be forbearing, be kind, be patient, be long-suffering.
This is what makes a good marriage. And Godly children.**

**Invest in the condition of your own heart. This is what we take into eternity.
When we are resurrected, our spirit rejoins our new body.
Who we are in spirit, will be revealed in our new body.
So we are actually investing in having a better resurrection.
We want a better resurrection, a greater degree of glory in our new body.**

**Invest in your heavenly home. Remember, our works here on earth, are
sending up building materials for our heavenly home.
Let's send plenty of good works ahead of us, before we come to heaven.
Let's have a beautiful mansion awaiting us.**

**So let's set our affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
Colossians "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are
above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." Colossians 3:1-2.,**

**Things we do affect our eternal position in the heavenly kingdom. Choices,
decisions affect our eternity. Let's make the right choices in the fear of God
Remember, Godliness with contentment is great gain 1Tim. 6:6*
These are the true riches. Godliness, contentment, satisfied heart.
And Gods favor.**

**Paul said I count all things loss, in order to have the excellency of the
knowledge of God. Oh, to win Christ, to know him. And To have a better
resurrection. Phil. 3:8. Let us have the same mind and the same desire.
Let's invest in the things that last forever. Amen.**

