

What's In Your Wallet?

Have you every realized how valuable your wallet is to you? Your wallet contains items that are very valuable to you and also to the dishonest person who might happen to get hold of it. With the aid of debit and credit cards, one can have access to your entire life savings plus that hard-earned paycheck. Your wallet is important to you because it contains your physical treasure. But what about your spiritual wallet? What's in it? Is it empty or is it filled with treasure? Jesus said in Matthew 6:19-21, *"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. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* We are told in this passage to make sure that laying up for ourselves treasure on earth is not our goal. Our true goal is to lay up as much treasure in heaven as we can while we are here on this earth. There are many who have their physical wallet overflowing with treasures but their spiritual wallet is empty. The following are four ways that we can make sure our spiritual wallet is filled and overflowing with spiritual treasures.

First, we must share what we have with others, each and every time we have the opportunity. Jesus depicts the Day of Judgment in Matthew 25:41-46 as a day of condemnation for those who did not give their life to others. This does not just involve our money, as seen in Matthew 25, but also involves our time, love, compassion, and ourselves. Jesus said in Luke 12:33, *"Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys."* Jesus also told the rich young ruler in Matthew 19:21, *"If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."* Jesus made it clear that if the rich young ruler was going to be Jesus' follower, he was to be a benevolent person, willing to share what he had with others. This made the rich young ruler very sorrowful because he loved his money and did not want to let it go. Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:18-19, *"Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."* If we want to lay treasure in heaven, we must be someone willing to give and share what we have with others.

Second, we must be a lover and keeper of God's word, the greatest treasure of all. *"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the*

eyes; The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward" (Psalm 19:7-11). We find that God's word is more valuable than any other treasure in this life that we could have. Because of this, it must receive our utmost love and respect each and every day. The Bible is not something to be bought just to sit on a shelf until Sunday services. The Bible is to be used; it is to be respected, loved, and cherished like the treasure it truly is. If we do this, there is great reward.

Third, we must be willing to suffer persecution for righteousness' sake. Jesus said in Matthew 5:10-12, *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."* We find that we receive spiritual blessings when suffering for righteousness' sake and lay up treasure in heaven. Suffering for righteousness' sake is found throughout scripture. One particular instance is found in Acts 5 in which the apostles were beaten because they were preaching God's word (vs. 40). What's interesting is what is found in vs. 41: *"So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name."* The apostles had been beaten, yet in vs. 41 we find them rejoicing because they knew that they were suffering for Jesus and were laying up treasure in heaven.

Finally, to lay up treasure in heaven, we must learn to love and do good to those who hate us. Jesus said in Matthew 5:43-46, *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"* Jesus explains that loving someone who loves you is easy, but loving and doing good to someone who hates you is a very challenging task. As Jesus pointed out in vs. 43, there was a time when God did not have a problem with man hating his enemy, but since Jesus has come and has shown love to those who loved him and hated him, we are to also love those who do not love us, just as Jesus did. Paul said in Romans 12:20-21, *"Therefore, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head. Do*

not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Even though it is sometimes one of the hardest tasks to perform, if we want treasure in heaven, we must love and do good to those who do not love us.

If we want to lay treasure in heaven, we must be the kind of person ready to give to others, full of zeal to study God's word, willing to suffer for righteousness' sake, and willing to love and do good to those who hate us and wrong us. We live in a world where people's physical lives matter more to them than their spiritual ones -- a world full of selfishness and greed -- a world where a big wallet makes you a big person. And if they have no desire to lay treasure in heaven, they spiritually have an empty wallet with no hope of heaven. And when you meet your Maker on the Day of Judgment face to face, there may be only one question separating you from spiritual life or death. That question very well could be, "What's in your wallet?"

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