

Lesson Notes:

Laying Up Treasure in Heaven

In his Olivet discourse Jesus predicted troubled times in the last days. He indicated there would be earthquakes in diverse places and the seas would be roaring. We have seen in the past several years, unprecedented earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts, famines and floods. This presents us with great needs and opportunities to reach out and touch those that have suffered great loss through acts of kindness and giving. Following is a discussion around “laying up treasures in heaven”.

Scriptural Principles

- 1) **Great Commission given to all believers** – In **Matthew 28:16-20** Jesus instructed all believers to take an active roll in spreading the “good news”.
- 2) **Holy Spirit will give you the courage and the knowledge.** - Paul or Peter in **Acts 1:8** tells us that the Holy Spirit will give us the courage and knowledge when spreading the gospel of the Lord.
- 3) **The message is simple.** – In **John 3:16-17** Jesus tells us that God gave his only son Jesus so that we may enjoy eternal life with departed loved ones, the angels and the saints in God’s presence.
- 4) **Jesus is the ONLY Way.** – Jesus tells us in **John 14:6** that he is the only way to salvation. This means that the present day Unitarian moment is leading people to loss and destruction.
- 5) **No one will be turned away.** – Paul tells us in **Romans 10:13** that no one will be turned away. John Newton (the writer of Amazing Grace) is a wonderful example of this. A slave trader by profession but through his association with William Wilberforce became a Christian, eventually a pastor and wrote one of the greatest hymns ever written.

How can we help?

- 6) **Spending Our Wealth Wisely.** – Solomon tells us in **Proverbs 13:8** that the ransoms of a man’s life are his riches. And in **Proverbs 21:16-18** Solomon tells us that wealth can cause us to wander out of the way of understanding. In **Matthew 19:16-26** we see that the rich man sadly departed from Jesus because he did not want to give up his great wealth to follow Christ.
- 7) **Lay up treasures in Heaven** - Jesus encourages us in **Matthew 6:19-21** to lay up our treasures in heaven.

- 8) **The Time is “Now”** – There is currently great suffering worldwide. The Holy Spirit is on the offense in Iran, Iraq, Korea, Sudan, China, Philippines, and Russia. **Now** is the time to have an impact for Jesus Christ.