



Why Store Up a Treasure?

February 25, 2018
1 Timothy 6: 11-21

“In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life” (1 Timothy 6:19).

When Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount, He declared: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). When someone asked Jesus how he could inherit eternal life, “Jesus looked at him and loved him. ‘One thing you lack,’ he said. ‘Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me’” (Mark 10:21).

The Apostle Paul looked forward to the time when Jesus would come again according to God’s timing and Jesus’ followers would use their treasure; therefore, the followers of Jesus need to store up treasure in heaven. Paul wrote that by their choices and behavior Jesus’ followers will treasure up what they will need when Jesus returns. If they die before Jesus returns, they will bring their treasure with them. If they are alive when Jesus returns, they will use the treasure they have acquired to reign with Christ on earth. In the Book of Revelation, we read, “You have made them [followers] to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth” (Revelation 5:10). Paul wrote to Timothy, “If we endure, we will also reign with him” (2 Timothy 2:12). The true followers of Jesus will store up treasure that prepares them to reign with Christ and “take hold of the life that is truly life”: a godly character from the Holy Spirit’s work, their habit of obeying Jesus, their pursuit of “righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness” (1 Timothy 6:11).

Thinking Further

1. According to Paul, what are the six virtues that Christians should pursue?

2. Choose two of the virtues Paul named that you deem the most important and give a reason for your choices.

3. Why can we fight the good fight of faith with confidence?

4. How did Paul describe God?

5. Where should all believers, including rich believers, place their hope? What does Paul command the rich believers to do?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.

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