

GOD'S LAY AWAY PLAN

Mt. 6:19-20-21; 24-39
See context in 2k. 12.

INTRODUCTION: Christmas shopping on the "Lay-Away" Plan.

God, too, has a "lay away plan."

I. The Treasure

A. Not earthly *mt. 6:19*

1. People today have an obsession with their possessions.
The love of accumulation is a principle in our natures. No man is completely free of the fascination.

2. Earthly treasures are perishable and insecure

3. the American fairy tale.

B. But Heavenly *mt. 6:20*

treasures.

1. Spiritual riches are more important than earthly

2. They are imperishable and secure.

a. This bank does not fail when others fail.

b. Because of the omniscience of the Banker.

3. The only true investment for an immortal being must be in eternity.

4. Everything done for God's grace and glory is like something planted out of this world into the soil of another world.

It is a deposit which will appear again.

5. The Bank of heaven is the only one that can help at death.

No currency of any earthly government can be exchanged into the coin of heaven so as to ferry you across the river of death.

II. The Plan

- A. The Possibility; we can so live and act as to lay up *(x-over)* spiritual riches in heaven.

B. The Exhortation;

It is a command, in the imperative ~~imper~~ mood.

1. By identifying yourself with Jesus Christ.

2. By faithful stewardship of your possessions.

a. J. O. Penny

b. Maxey Jarman

c. ~~Oswald J. Smith~~

Tailor who refused to make a suit out of a piece of shady cloth.

xII.a. - Receive, Give, Live -

Sea of Galilee -

withhold, stagnate, die -

the Dead Sea -

"Expanding Horizons"

(Roman 75, p. 89-)

("God Wants All of You")

3. By setting your affection of things above

4. By having your conversation (manner of life) ^{style} in heaven, (Phil. 3:20)

5. By the people you lead to Christ --

(stewardship of your time & talents)

6. By the Christian friendships you make.

It will be a great joy to meet in heaven those to whom we have been useful & helpful in this life, (stewardship of influence).

7. By fixing a high priority on the church of God. ^{Rev.} 11:22

III. The APPLICATION: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." 6:21

A. Two ways to understand this:

1. If your heart is in spiritual things, then you will invest your treasure there.

2. If you invest your treasure in spiritual things, then your heart will be in spiritual things.

B. If we so use our opportunities for their eternal value, we are putting treasure in God's bank.

C. Don't bank with sin & Satan & selfishness any longer

D. Toys must not be counted as treasures.

1. A lady once asked two little boys who were amusing themselves with some beautiful playthings, "Well, boys, these are your greatest treasures, I suppose."

The older boy answered, "No ma'am, these are not our treasures; they are our toys; our treasures are in heaven." What a noble answer from a child!

2. Let us treat gold, silver, and earthly things as toys, and let us treat moral goodness, spiritual beauty, righteousness of heart, Christlikeness of character, and our stewardship of the gospel, as the only treasures worthy of the name.

E. No man ever went to heaven whose heart was not there before.