

OWNING PROPERTY; A FALSE RESTING PLACE

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REF: VS. (Matt. 6:19-21)

The subject of owning property, a house, or accumulating other valuable possessions in this life, is one that is most important for the believer in Christ to fully understand, as one pursues the true Christian life of faith and trust. The principal of Truth involved in God's financial plan, has always seemed to be a most difficult subject to be understood in the Christian world. This is because the devil (or the human nature that each one is born with), entices one to depend on the seen things that can be accumulated and trusted on in this life.

However, Jesus gave us warnings about the dangers of having laid-up treasures in this life. Also, admonitions and guidelines for the believer to follow in a lifetime of faith and trust, on the Son of God, as we follow His example. And, as we follow the narrow pathway, and strain every nerve (as Jesus said, Luke 13:24), to enter through the narrow gate ... (at the end of that straight and narrow pathway to Life Eternal.)

(Matt. 6:19-21), Jesus said, "Do not lay up stores of wealth for yourselves on earth, where the moth and wear-and-tear destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But amass wealth for yourselves in Heaven, where neither the moth nor wear-and-tear destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your wealth is, there also will your heart be."

[Nothing could be more important in the Christian life, than where ... in one's heart ... they have placed their trust, (financially or otherwise). It is the Christian life... (in a nutshell, as one might say). As mentioned, the human heart wants to trust on seen things, instead of on the unseen God in a life of faith and trust.

That life of trust may seem to be difficult to the human heart. However, the Holy Spirit was sent down to this earth upon Jesus' request, to empower every true believer who is willing to be led by that Spirit, and to make the Christian's life of trust and following the Savior, the most pleasant and easy path to follow in this life.

When one's financial trust is centered on God's written Word and His Divine Promises, instead of depending on human plans and places of trust, it will open the door for the Holy Spirit to enter into one's heart and life. He will make it a natural desire and reaction of the believer's heart and mind, to obey each admonition that Jesus gave us regarding God's financial plan for us in this life. Also, to receive His promised blessings, and added spiritual knowledge of how God works to make one's pathway of trust, very easy and pleasant to follow. In saying, "Do not lay up stores of wealth for yourselves on earth." Jesus does not permit the true believer to carry along the pension

plan, social security or other insurance plans for financial protection,.. or the savings accounts (for the rainy day, as our late Pastor would say),... nor, to carry along any other types of false resting places (devised by the devil). When a person signs for the responsibility of one those financial security,... savings,... or insurance plans, they are in realty, showing their approval (by their signature) of that unscriptural plan for future financial protection. Aside from that, those false places of trust, are all excess baggage to carry (as God's Word does not permit the believer to keep them anyway), and they are a hindrance on the Christian walkway of a life of faith and trust on the Son of God.

God promises to protect the believer from financial losses and hardship. (Hebrews 13:5-6), "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Thus, one will not have to do without necessary things in this life, when they do not compromise their trust on the Son of God. God will provide money for the believer to rent their home or their vehicle, instead of their owning a home or other property or possessions of great value. (Earthly treasures in the minds of those of the world).

Jesus continued to say (Matt. 6: verses 23-24), "If however the very light within you is darkness, how dense must the darkness be! "No man can be the bond-servant of two masters; for either he will dislike one and like the other, or he will... "attach" . himself to one, and think slightingly of the other. You cannot be the bond-servants both of God and of gold." (He said)

The Bible says of 'Moses' (a prime example of a man of faith in God, and whom God exceedingly blessed and spoke to in person), "He deemed the reproaches which he might meet with in the service of the Christ, to be greater riches than all the treasures of Egypt; for he fixed his gaze on the coming reward. Through faith he left Egypt, not being frightened by the king's anger; for he held on his course, as seeing the unseen One." (Hebrews 11:26-27).

Moses attached himself and his trust to Christ, not to the rich treasures of Egypt, thus (as mentioned), it opened the door for the Holy Spirit to enter into to his heart and mind. It became a natural desire and reaction for Moses to obey each command and admonition to follow God's financial plan. Moses gave up his house and the human things he could have trusted on, (in Egypt), and he placed his trust on God. Thus, he received God's promised blessings in his life here on earth, as well as his eternal reward. It is as Jesus promised (Luke 18:30), "who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life."

So, the Christian wants to be sure they are.. attaching.. their trust on the Son of God (as we are told to do, John 3:16), and not attaching it to a financial security plan,... (devised by the devil to

cause one to mis-place their trust.) Where one places their trust, is the Christian life, and believing (or trusting) "On Him whom He has sent", is "Above all the thing that God requires," (Jesus told us, John 6:29).

These financial security plans that we are surrounded with in this day, can all be considered excess baggage as one strives to follow the narrow pathway of faith and trust on the Son of God. How narrow is that narrow pathway that Jesus described? When Jesus admonishes the believer not to "lay up stores of wealth for yourselves on earth," .. He indicates that the narrow path is too narrow to try to bring along the laid-up treasures. Even if one would try to hold on to their stores of wealth financial insurance plans, savings accounts, and other earthly treasures, as they profess to follow the Christian pathway, .. one needs to remember that the gate at the end of the pathway is even narrower. That excess baggage would not fit through the narrow gate, thus, one trying to hold onto earthly treasures or laid-up money, could not enter the Heavenly Kingdom, for as Jesus explains, it will be difficult enough for even the person themselves to enter, (unless they are truly trusting on the Son of God for things in this life).

When Jesus was asked (Luke 13:23-27), "Sir, are there but few who are to be saved?"... "Strain every nerve to force your way in through the narrow gate ," He answered; "for multitudes, I tell you, will endeavor to find a way in and will not succeed. As soon as the Master of the house shall have risen and shut the door, and you have begun to stand outside and knock at the door and say, "'Sir, open the door for us." 'I do not know you,' He answers; 'you are no friends of mine.' "Then you will plead, 'We have eaten and drunk in your company and you have taught in our streets.' "But He will reply, 'I tell you that you are no friends of mine. Begone from me, all of you, wrongdoers that you are." (So, false trusting places must be gotten rid of.)

Jesus told us (John 6:29), "This, is above all the thing that God requires—that you should be believers in Him whom He has sent." So, when the Master replies, "begone from me, all of you wrongdoers that you are." One can readily see that He means, ...you were not placing your trust on ... "Him whom He has sent."

(Trust on 'man's insurance plans' and other 'financial security' plans are 'false trust', not 'trust on the One whom God has sent', (which is God's requirement for everyone)!

That is a main principle of Truth involved in the ownership of property or a house (which are far more valuable in this day and age than ever before), as the property could be depended on in a time of financial need. In reality, it represents a false place of trust. This is so, since a mortgage could be placed upon the property, or the house could be sold if money were needed to meet a need or an obligation. Thus, it does indeed represent a false resting place.

A mortgage on the property would allow one a borrowing credit to receive a financial loan against the collateral value of the property, (that laid-up treasure on earth that Jesus forbids the true believer

to have),... and thus, be used as a guarantee for a loan which is to be paid back later. (However, a loan to be paid back later, is a debt, just like buying things on credit is a debt (forbidden in Scripture),... as the Bible tells the believer not to go in debt for anything. (Romans 13:8), "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law."

That supports (Matt.5:18-19) "Solemnly I tell you that until Heaven and earth pass away, not one iota, or smallest detail will pass away from the Law until all has taken place. Whoever therefore breaks one of these least commandments and teaches others to break them, will be called the least in the Kingdom of the Heavens; but whoever practices them and teaches them, he will be acknowledged as great in the Kingdom of the Heavens."

Also, if one owned a property, it could be sold in their time of need, enabling them to meet financial obligations via a plan of the self-life,... (instead of trusting God to deliver one from difficult circumstances). These are just a few of many plans of man (inspired by the devil), and set in place (by unbelievers) as, false places of trust. They are used by the devil as temptations to deceive a person into 'misplacing their trust (to take them to the Lake of Fire), instead of one placing their trust on God to enable them to meet their obligations, and reaping most important spiritual blessing, as the most valuable result (to prepare and take them to Heaven).

The same principle of Truth could apply to ownership and possession of many other material things, that in many cases are very unnecessary in a humble Christian life, but they are highly valued by many people in the world today. Many of those material things the natural human heart might crave to have, are used as distractions by the devil to consume hours of a person's time, and keep them away from gaining a better knowledge of God and His Word and what His Son accomplished for us on Calvary's Cross.

After Paul came to know Christ, he gave up everything for Christ, and to be found to be in Christ. He said (1 Tim.6:8), "if we have food and clothing, with these we will be satisfied." However, with valuable possessions in this day, most people of the world even take responsibility for an insurance policy or a maintenance insurance agreement, on possessions that are of value to them, as a means of financial protection. All such insurance plans and maintenance agreements to be trusted on, are inspired by the devil and set-in-place by unbelievers (who in most cases are not trusting God for anything in their life, even for a toothpick, as the late Pastor would say on occasion). These plans are to entice a person to use them as a false place of trust,... instead of trusting God to protect them from unexpected financial burdens. In reality, it is unbelief of God's many promises of protection.

Unbelief should be recognized, as idolatry, as one does not place their trust on the Son of God and on His many promises to protect them, financially or otherwise. Thus, each one of these false trusting places, is indeed another form of idolatry,... which God's

second Commandment forbids one to trust in.

(Exodus 20:4-6), "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them;" (worship, meaning to trust or depend on them),... "For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."

Getting back to the false resting place of property ownership (rather than renting the use of a dwelling or other necessary things), it can sometimes reduce one's living expenses, since rent monies would not have to be acquired and paid on time. 'Rent monies' would not have to be trusted for. Thus, owning property or other valuable possessions that one could depend on in time of financial need, can take a person out of a place of trust on God. "A person cannot very well learn the necessary lessons of faith and trust in God (the late Pastor said), as they would depend more on their treasures laid up on earth, than they would on the living God" (to provide for them). "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matt.6:21 says), (and God knows what He is talking about!)

AA person would first have to dispose of their earthly treasures, before they would come to the place where the living God' alone would be depended upon for all financial help. Then, they can learn lessons of faith and trust in God, by depending on the living God for the supply of their financial needs. (We all need to be brought back to trusting on the living God.) It is just as necessary to learn to depend upon God for financial help, as for any other kind of help that one may need."

"Another unscriptural point to consider about owning a house is, that it stands for permanency. It indicates that we expect to live quite some time on earth, and that we are not momentarily expecting the coming of the Lord. (To use an everyday worldly life example, if we expected to move at any time to another country far away (the Pastor said), "We would naturally sell what real estate we had, and under no conditions would we acquire additional property."

"In other words, we would show by our actions that we expected to pack up and leave at any time for the far country. Thus, those true Christians who are eagerly expecting the coming of the Lord, will not be found to be acquiring property, or, holding on to property (or stores of wealth and 'valuables') that they may already possess. "Do not waver between hope and fear." (says Luke 12:29) and then (vs 32-39) Jesus said, "Dismiss your fears, little flock: your Father finds a pleasure in giving you the Kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Provide yourselves with purses that will never wear out, a treasure inexhaustible in Heaven, where no thief can come nor moth consume. For where your wealth is stored, there also will your heart be." "Have your girdles on, and let your lamps be alight; and be

yourselves like men waiting for their master—on the look-out till he shall return from the wedding feast—that, when he comes and knocks, they may open the door instantly." "Blessed are those servants, whom their Master when He comes shall find on the watch. I tell you in solemn truth, that He will tie an apron round Him, and will bid them recline at table while He comes and waits on them. And whether it be in the second watch or in the third that He comes and finds them so, ..blessed.. are they. Of this be sure, that if the master of the house had known what time the robber was coming, he would have kept awake and not have allowed his house to be broken into. (40) "Be you also ready", for at an hour when you are not expecting Him,.. the Son of Man will come."

(As John 3:16 teaches), those 'who are trusting on the Son', enter through the narrow gate, not those who own property or have other financial assets (laid-up treasures) to depend on, which Jesus told us to get rid of, if we want to follow Him. We can recall what He told the rich young man (Luke 18:22), "There is still one thing wanting in you. Sell everything you possess and give the money to the poor, and you shall have wealth in Heaven;" "and then come, follow me."

"Trust in Me also" Jesus said (as I am trusting on My Father He meant, and not to trust on your laid-up treasures on earth.)

In summary, depending on earthly treasures for things in this life, outward self righteousness, adornments, and human financial plans, will not gain entrance through the narrow gate. Rather, it will be those who are believing (or trusting) on what the grace and power of Jesus shed blood has provided for this life and Eternal Life. The Atonement blood of Christ covers everything that touches one in the true Christian life, and it is all the merit we need to enter into those blessings here and hereafter. (It is our surrendered soul that God is seeking!!!)

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SOME MAIN POINTS OF 'OWNING PROPERTY; A FALSE RESTING PLACE':

1. A treasure stored up on earth, betrays one's trust on the Living God, for the Lord said, that our heart will be where our treasure is.
2. A life of trust financially seems difficult to the human heart, but the Holy Spirit makes it a pleasant and easy pathway to follow.
3. Attachment to a financial security plan will have to be relinquished, as one follows the narrow pathway of trust, that leads to the narrow gate.
4. The example of Moses is used as a comparison to those who perished because of not wanting to give up their trust in the seen things they were depending on. Because of their unbelief, neither could they obey God, thus, it proved to be a fatal form of idolatry.

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