

# Creation Revelation



God is in the details

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Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one  
of thy righteous judgments endureth forever.

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Psalm 119:160

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## The Kingdom of God {Committing to Christ}

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:13, 14 NKJV

There are two paths that a person can choose in life. He may choose the path that is broad and whereon most of humanity finds their way. Or, he may choose the narrow path, where few men trod. The narrow path is considered socially unacceptable especially by today's very liberal standards. One path leads to destruction, the other path leads to eternal life. On which path are you?

### Seek Ye First The Kingdom

One of the very first verses of Scripture that I focused on when I accepted the Lord was Matthew 6:33 which says that we must seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. This verse in context spoke of trusting in the Lord for all the needful things in my life. This was a very difficult concept for me

since I had been doing things my way for a very long time.

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But **seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;** and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:31-33

If, as these verses state, I should seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, then I must ask just what is the Kingdom of God? A little while later I ran across a verse that defined the Kingdom of God as "righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

For **the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.** Romans 14:17

This verse made clear that the Kingdom of God that I was to seek first was not made up of the material things of life. However, this verse in context refers to

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not causing my brother to stumble. But, it also speaks of liberty. Of this Wiersbe writes:

*... the principle that the Christian life is between the believer and his Lord, and that the believer must always be sure he is right with the Lord. If there are doubts about some of his practices, he cannot have joy and peace.*<sup>1</sup>

Putting Matthew 6:33 together with Romans 14:17 it became clear that the material things in life (including job, goals, and possessions) and the cares of the world must be secondary to seeking the Kingdom of God. It was also clear from these verses that God would provide the needful things in life if I would only obey Him and seek Him first. This is totally opposite from what the world today would say. If, in fact, anyone attempts to follow this principle he or she is looked upon by the worldly as being a fanatic. Barnhouse writes:

*But the righteousness of the Kingdom of God is even more than positive action. God's righteousness produces an infinite longing to grow in holiness, an ardent desire to know Him better, an intense craving for truth in the inward parts. It is longing for the consciousness of the Lord's presence, the panting of the deer after the water brooks (Ps 42:1). It is that hungering and thirsting after righteousness which our Lord promised would be satisfied (Matt 5:6). When a believer truly yearns for the righteousness of God, he possesses the passport that identifies him as a true citizen of the Kingdom of God.*<sup>2</sup>

Notice that Barnhouse says a true believer "truly yearns for the righteousness of God," and that the righteousness of God "produces an infinite longing to grow in holiness, an ardent desire to know Him better, an intense craving for truth in the inward parts." I experienced this yearning when I truly submitted my life to serving God. Unless you are truly committed (born again), much of what I am writing in this article cannot be comprehended. Many will simply not get it. Probably most that are uncommitted, including nominal "Christians," will have already stopped reading this article. I would encourage you, however, to keep reading. This change of which I have been writing is available to everyone. Those that have made the transformation described by Jesus in John chapter 3 have not regretted it. This transformation will not remove tribulation in your life, but it will bring peace and joy in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Notice what Jesus told Nicodemus.

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.** Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.** That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again.** John 3:1-7

Notice that this transformation was put by Jesus in terms that precluded it as being optional.<sup>3</sup> Notice also that it is a prerequisite for entering the Kingdom of God.

One of the first things I noticed about this simple message of "seek ye first" was how difficult it was for the worldly to accept it. Some of those in my own family did not seem to understand this simple message, even though professing to be Christians. The problem seems to be that the worldly (carnal) are blinded by the cares and attractions of this world. They seem to believe that by showing up once in awhile, like at Easter, everything will be just fine. Is showing up once in awhile truly serving God? The Bible is clear that there is more. How about the following:

Let us **hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering**; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: **and so much the more**, as ye see the day approaching. Hebrews 10:23-25

So, I guess we are supposed to go the church? Okay then, how often are we supposed to think and speak about the Words of God? How much time are we to give God? My Bible also makes that very clear. Although the following verses of the Old Testament refer to God calling the Jewish nation to commitment, they point toward God's desire for relationship with us as His sons and daughters.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Wow! Sounds very much like 24/7 with a little timeout for sleep. This means that God is to be part of our every conscious moment. Before 1975 I would have called anyone with such a preposterous idea a fanatic. But I know now that we live in an insane world usurped by an insane angel in a garden. The only sanity that I have known since 1975 has been in the company of committed Christians and between the covers of the Holy Bible.

**But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:** In whom the god of this world [Satan] hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

The question that should be asked by everyone that professes to believe is a paraphrase of the one posed by Del Tackett in *The Truth Project*, "Do you really believe what you profess to believe is really real?"<sup>4</sup> If you really believe what you profess to believe is really real, then you should have no problem in understanding the absolute need to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. What did that understanding mean for me?

### What Does It Mean To Be A Committed Christian?

Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. **But he that received** the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and

anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for **when tribulation or persecution ariseth** because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Matthew 13:18-23

**Whosoever therefore shall confess me** before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But **whosoever shall deny me** before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.... And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. **He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.** Matthew 10:32, 33, 38, 39

You might think that since you have come to the knowledge of the meaning of Matthew 6:33 it should be a simple matter to convince other people of the truth of what you have discovered. I soon discovered that was not to be a simple task. I remember a story I once heard about a street preacher that was preaching to a crowd one day. Many in the crowd sneered and said to themselves, "Who does he think he is to preach to us, aren't we all Christians?" As he preached the simple message of salvation, one by one the crowd began to drift off until only a little boy remained. Still, the preacher continued to preach until finally the little boy tugged at the preacher's coat and asked, "Mister, why are you still preaching, can't you see that they have all left?" The preacher then replied, "I'm preaching to myself so that I won't become like them."

This reminds me of another truth that is essential to commitment as a Christian. It is not just enough to receive the word gladly; I had to do something with it. I had to somehow bear fruit in the Kingdom of God. The roots of the fruit's seed had to penetrate through the rocky ground of unbelief.

I once was among those that heard the simple message and did not understand. The world had such a grip on me that I would not cast off that grip for fear of losing the worldly treasures and position that I had gained. It was for me as the bumper sticker proclaimed, "He who dies with the most toys wins."

Before the summer of 1975 I had no desire to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. To suggest that I ever would was laughable. Why would I want to give up my worldly pursuits and chase a fairytale? In fact, any attempt to read the Gospels was pointless, since I understood not a word therein. The words of the Gospel that I did read floated away as soon as they were read. Why then did I still have a nagging feeling that the Gospel message was real? For awhile I attempted to prove to myself that God was not real. I tried to make logical arguments that God did not exist. I was in torment. If God was real, then I was accountable for my actions. That is a fearful thing to contemplate that I was accountable for my rebellion against a Holy God, and one day would have to make an account in His presence.

There are two masters that we can choose to serve in this life.

Jesus said unto them, **If God were your Father, ye would love me:** for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.** He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for **he is a liar, and the father of it.** John 8:42-44

Before a person comes to Christ he is still in the original rebellion of the Garden (Genesis 3). That person has joined in this rebellion against God with the father of lies, Satan. This was the state that I was in before the summer of 1975. I was in rebellion against God. Likewise, this is the state of all who do not know, love, and accept Christ as their personal Savior. They are rebellious.

If a person who hears the Word of God does not seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness, then when trouble comes, and it surely will since the Word has no root, it is gone in a moment of time.

Then, there is the thorny ground where the cares of the world and the desire for fame and fortune choke out the Word and make it unfruitful. This is the message of today's society – to be committed to Jesus Christ is foolishness and is considered counterproductive to attainment of worldly fame and possessions. So there stood I on the eve of a profound change that was about to come upon my life and attitude; one that would change my heart so completely that I could not call it a loss. Suddenly, my previous aspirations in life did not seem important anymore when stacked against the simple

message of "seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness."

I remember that day vividly, although I did not record the exact date or time. All I know was that it occurred in an instant of time in the summer of 1975. Had anyone told me that I would have come to believe so completely that it would change the thrust of my life I would have said that person was crazy. This is the thought of the worldly man. I could not see that there was something else. I did not see that it was possible to live in God's Kingdom now.<sup>5</sup> Lest you think that I am trying to paint myself as a perfect Christian, let me say that I am still a work in progress. While I may have fallen off the narrow path a few times, somehow by God's merciful grace and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit I have been able to get back up and get back on the path. I can say, however, that I have never wavered from the simple and committed belief that found me wanting in the summer of 1975.

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For **we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.** According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:6-11

So, what was I to do now since I really believed that what I believed was really real? Everyone should be able to relate to what caused me to believe; right? Wrong. That is why everyone has an unique story of their own. God touches people where they are at in that moment of time. We either choose to accept God's call and the challenges that it brings, or we refuse to hear the call until the call can no longer be heard above the din of the cares of the world. What then was I to do with the new life freely given to me by a merciful God in 1975? Regardless of whether people would listen, I now had to tell others about the free gift that, if applied properly, would unbind them from the cares of the world. They would indeed be free, no longer bound to the ancient rebellion. It didn't take me long to realize that I was really just a planter of seeds and a tiller of soil, God's steward. We cannot boast of the increase, that's Gods part in the labor.

A committed Christian, then, is one that is persistent in the Word of God and receives it with understanding into not only his mind, but into his heart. More importantly, a committed Christian is also one that has the word in his heart which bears good fruit according to his understanding and talent.

## How Does The World View The Committed Christian?

**Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.** But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. **Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.** For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. **And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.** He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. **He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.** He that receiveth you receiveth me, and **he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.** Matthew 10:32-40

The further down this path I go, the more I realize the truth of Jesus' words that He came as a divider. Because there are really two choices that man may make in choosing whom to serve, any choice will cause a division of some kind. But, you might say, "I am a Christian, doesn't that mean that I am on the side of right?" Really? Who then was Christ referring when He said:

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. **Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and **in thy name done many wonderful works?** And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.** Matthew 7:20-23

Therefore, how does the world view a committed Christian? I have a dear friend that witnessed to me in my own house in the early 1970's; I was offended. How dare he preach to me? What is wrong with him? Later this same friend invited me to attend prayer meetings in his home. I begged off. I said to myself that I had better things to do with my life than attend a prayer meeting with some goody-goodies. I didn't accept his invitation then, but only a few years later I would say that those prayer meetings were some of the most cherished moments of my life. My friend was my true friend indeed.

There was certainly a division in my mind at the time as to his friendship. He was a nice man, but, I thought, kind of weird. While I would not have called the man my enemy, other people may have been offended to the point of cutting off further contact. I probably would have not had further contact with him if we were not involved in a common interest. We both were members of the local Toastmasters Club.<sup>6</sup>

Have you ever witnessed to a friend or family member only to notice that they appear uncomfortable and seem to be looking for any excuse to bolt to the nearest exit? Have you ever been frustrated at giving friends or loved ones videos, books, or other Christian material and waited for some kind of response. You think to yourself that the material will stir in the hearts of your friends or loved ones the same stirring that you find in your own heart. Most of the time, no matter how short the message, how convenient it would be to pop it into the DVD player, or how long you wait, the awaited response never comes. The answer is usually an embarrassed "I haven't had time yet" when you finally ask, "Did you look at the material I gave you?" I can tell you that the closer the person is to you, the more it hurts.

The world would be much simpler if only I chose to stay on the broad way. I could be more accepting of the way things are. I would have no set of absolutes to live by. I could just do my own thing and live as I chose. My friends and family members could choose their own life styles and it wouldn't bother me as long as no one was hurt. But, in the final analysis I really believe what I believe is really real. And if it is really real, then I am accountable to a loving and merciful God. I am required to be a witness to the world. There is no turning back. I also believe that I have chosen the right path that is **righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.** I know that the other way before the summer of 1975 was a path of misery, a wasted life without purpose.

Now, if the entertainment media is any indicator, as a fundamentalist Christian I am despised and mocked. It seems that the name Christian has become a dirty word. All sorts of perversion and atrocities are portrayed and laid at the feet of Christianity by the most popular television programs and performers. The media is beating

the drums of political correctness and religious toleration so that truth is distorted to the point that good seems bad and bad seems good. Yet, there are some "Christians" that are revered and accepted simply because they avoid controversy. They refuse to engage the secular worldview head-on. Their message of humility is one of love and acceptance. They preach a social gospel instead of *the* Gospel. What is not to like about their message, except that is not the message of *the* Gospel? Rodney R. Romney, Pastor of Seattle's *First Baptist Church*, gives us insight into the ecumenical thinking of those that preach a social gospel:

*He [Jesus] meant to establish a world religion that would embrace every soul and synthesize every creed, and his work will not be consummated until he has done just that.*<sup>7</sup>

So Christianity is supposed to "synthesize every creed" is it? Interestingly, that is the very form of Christianity that has gained acceptance by the media and Pastor Romney. It sounds very similar to what is espoused by atheistic humanism as expressed in *Humanist Manifesto II*:

*Some humanists believe we should reinterpret traditional religions and reinvest them with meanings appropriate to the current situation.*<sup>8</sup>

The Christian needs to be very careful here. All churches are not equal. While many appear very good indeed, and the message is one of love for our fellow man, the practice may lead to a compromise of the pure Gospel expressed by Jesus and His disciples. The message of the modern "seeker friendly" church may feel good, but it is dangerous to the pure Gospel. This willingness to integrate is the reason that the media is supportive of it. Instead of division, it brings a feel-good message of unity. This modern church is watered-down and willing to accommodate and merge. This is the face of the new gospel and church. Any church adhering to a strict application of the true Gospel of Christ and promoting the teaching of the whole Bible, including end-time prophecy and condemnation of sin, is looked upon as outmoded, lacking humility, and insensitive to the feelings of diverse groups. Remember that we saw at the very beginning of this section (Matthew 10) that Christ came and brought a message of division. According to Warren Wiersbe:

*Verses 34-39 [Matthew 10] indicate clearly that the Gospel is a divider of people. Christ is the Prince of Peace, and the Gospel is the message of peace, but when people; confess Christ, they usually make enemies. Christ*

*separates and makes the strongest natural ties of family and friends seem less important.*<sup>9</sup>

### Eternal Security

As I was bringing this newsletter to a close, a brother in Christ asked me what I thought of the concept of eternal security. This has been a concern of many in the church throughout the Christian era. It also was a concern of mine as I struggled with my own Christian walk. The question was always, "Am I good enough to go to heaven?" The answer of course is no; we all fall short.

For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God; Romans 3:23

So how can anyone have peace and joy in the Holy Ghost if he or she is uncertain of eternal security? Catholics especially struggle with this. I was previously a Catholic. I once asked a Catholic priest if he thought he was going to heaven, and the response was, "I don't know, I hope so." If indeed there is no assurance of eternal security, then a person's life becomes one of endless good works in the hope that you are somehow made good enough. So then how can we know that we have eternal life and will one day be in heaven? We find our answer in the very next verse in Romans 3.

**Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.** Romans 3:24-26

We are justified by what Christ did for us on the cross, not because of what we have done for ourselves. We are all sinners.

Once we are saved do we have any assurance that we will stay that way? If we cannot have that assurance, then how do we know we will one day reside in heaven? What does the Bible say?

My sheep **hear my voice**, and **I know them**, and **they follow me**: And **I give unto them eternal life**; and **they shall never perish**, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and **no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand**. I and my Father are one. John 10:27-30

Jesus is saying that those that are His followers are given eternal life. He also says that no man can steal them away. This sounds very much like that those on the narrow path can know that they are saved. Paul assures us that it is Christ that is doing the work in our lives. It is what Christ has done, and is doing; it is not our good works that lead to our salvation.

Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it** until the day of Jesus Christ: Philippians 1:6

Once truly committed, no one can be separated.

Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? **It is God that justifieth.** Who is he that condemneth? **It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things **we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.** For I am persuaded, that **neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** Romans 8:33-39

You can be sure of your salvation.

### What About Works?

What about good works? James makes a case that a committed Christian is one that will do good works not because he is seeking heaven, but because he has committed to Christ.

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? **If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,** And one of you say unto them, **Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled;** notwithstanding **ye give them not** those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so **faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.** Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: **shew me thy faith without thy**

**works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.** James 2:14-18

Paul says that your works do not define the place of your eternal destiny, but only the quality of your rewards.

Now **if any man build** upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; **Every man's work shall be made manifest:** for the day shall declare it, because it shall be **revealed by fire;** and the fire shall **try every man's work** of what sort it is. **If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.** If any man's **work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved;** yet so as by fire. 1 Corinthians 3:12-15

Faith is the key.

And **he believed in the Lord;** and he **counted it to him for righteousness.** Genesis 15:6

For **by grace are ye saved through faith;** and that **not of yourselves:** it is the **gift of God: Not of works,** lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

### Two Treasures

Do you Christian believe what you profess to believe is really real? Or are you a defeated Christian (barely saved), just struggling along, never sure that you are truly saved, carnal and spiritually immature, with little lasting joy, with a life empty of *real* purpose and fulfillment, and struggling as a slave to sinful desires and habits. You may be saved, but you are "shallow and self-centered," not fully committed to ordering your priorities.<sup>10</sup> Commit today to forsake your sinful ways and enter into the joy of the Lord by allowing Christ to be ruler (Lord) over your life.

What about you "natural man" (unsaved)? Do you truly believe that your worldly lifestyle is satisfying? Is your philosophy one of "he who dies with the most toys wins?" Consider well, do you truly believe that you will not be held accountable for your life and lifestyle? Deep down you might say to yourself, "there's plenty of time to think about God when I'm old – but, for now, I'm having too much fun." Really?

And he said, **This will I do:** I will pull down my barns, and **build greater;** and there will I bestow **all my fruits and my goods.** And **I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine**

ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, **Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.**

Luke 12:18-21

Consider what is true in life. Are worldly position and material things what count most in your life, or do you think that seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness will bring about the true riches of life and eternity?

**Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.** Matthew 6:19-21

Love not the world, **neither the things** that are in the world. **If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** For all that is in the world, **the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.** And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but **he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.** 1 John 2:15-17

Be sure that the treasures you lay up will lead to eternal life. **AΩ**

**(Endnotes)**

<sup>1</sup> Warren Wiersbe, (from Wiersbe's EXPOSITORY OUTLINES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT. Copyright © 1992 by Chariot Victor Publishing, an imprint of Cook Communication Ministries. All rights reserved, Romans 14:22-23.)

<sup>2</sup> Donald Grey Barnhouse (from Romans: EXPOSITIONS OF BIBLE DOCTRINES © 1966 by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. All rights reserved, Romans 16:27.)

<sup>3</sup> See BORN AGAIN - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?, *Creation Revelation*, Volume 9, Issue 2, Spring 2005.

<sup>4</sup> Del Tackett, THE TRUTH PROJECT, Copyright 2004-2009 Focus on the Family. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. *Focus on the Family's The Truth Project* is a registered trademark ® of Focus on the Family.

<sup>5</sup> More of this testimony is related in the newsletter BORN AGAIN - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?, *Creation Revelation*, Volume 9, Issue 2, Spring 2005, and in the newsletter TRINITY (A Defense), *Creation Revelation*, Special Edition, Fall 2000, where I am "the skeptic." See also "About Us" on our website [www.creationrevelation.org](http://www.creationrevelation.org).

<sup>6</sup> *Toastmasters International* is an organization located in numerous towns and cities worldwide devoted to gaining proficiency in public speaking. I had a severe fear of speaking in public which my involvement in Toastmasters helped me overcome. This is a very worthwhile organization, highly recommended for those with similar fears or needs. As I look back now, without this experience I could not teach the Bible to groups as I do today.

<sup>7</sup> Dave Hunt, OCCULT INVASION, Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1998, p. 566.

<sup>8</sup> Paul Kurtz (editor), HUMANIST MANIFESTOS I AND II, Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 1973, p. 16.

<sup>9</sup> Warren Wiersbe, (from Wiersbe's EXPOSITORY OUTLINES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT. Copyright © 1992 by Chariot Victor Publishing, an imprint of Cook Communication Ministries. All rights reserved.)

<sup>10</sup> See Leon Bates, A "BATTLE MAP" For the Christian Walk, Sherman, TX: Bible Believers Evangelistic Association, [www.bbea.org](http://www.bbea.org), 1973.

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Email: [rtozier@creationrevelation.org](mailto:rtozier@creationrevelation.org).

<http://www.creationrevelation.org>.

Webmaster: Dave Ashcraft.

Mail: Robert & Mary Tozier, 92-222 Hoalii Place, Kapolei, HI 96707. Tel: 808-672-7229 - ALOHA! **AΩ**