

## SECURE INVESTMENTS

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Matthew 6:19-34

1. We saw in last week's message that our lives are lived before, or in the sight of God.
2. The things we do are to be the outgrowth of our private, secret, ongoing relationship with God.
3. Our ultimate motivation must be to please and glorify Him.
4. Not only are our lives lived before God, but they must also be lived out in the world, which means we must relate to the world.
5. The difficulty has to do with maintaining a right relationship with God while living for, and representing Him, in the world.
6. As followers of Jesus Christ we are to be in the world but not of the world. 1 John 2:15-17  
Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.
7. Jesus warned that a wrong view of and attachment to this present world system will result in:
  - a. A definite disappointment.
  - b. A distorted perspective.
  - c. A divided loyalty.
8. Let's examine each point.

### **I. A definite disappointment. 19-21**

A. Those who trust in, and lay up treasure on earth will one day leave them behind.

Psalm 49:5-12

Why should I fear in days of adversity, when the iniquity of my foes surrounds me, 6 even those who trust in their wealth and boast in the abundance of their riches? 7 No man can by any means redeem his brother or give to God a ransom for him — 8 for the redemption of his soul is costly, and he should cease trying forever — 9 that he should live on eternally, that he should not undergo decay. 10 For he sees that even wise men die; the stupid and the senseless alike perish and leave their wealth to others. 11 Their inner thought is that their houses are forever and their dwelling places to all generations; they have called their lands after their own names. 12 But man in his pomp will not endure; he is like the beasts that perish.

1. No amount of money can redeem or ransom a person from the penalty of sin or the reality of death.

2. Eventually everyone dies and what is left behind goes to others.

B. Paul made a similar observation in I Timothy 6:7 when he wrote, "For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either."

C. In the parable of the Unrighteous Steward, found in Luke 16:1-13, Jesus taught an important principle concerning the right use of our resources and influence.

NOTE: Martyn Lloyd-Jones summed it up this way when he wrote, "If you have money, so use it in this world, that, when you arrive in glory, the people who benefitted by it will be there to receive you." 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 18

Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

D. Heavenly investments are the only totally secure investments.

## **II. A distorted perspective. 22-23**

A. As followers of Jesus Christ we sometimes wonder why others cannot see the things that we see so clearly.

NOTE: We seem to forget that we were once spiritually blind as well.

B. We need to understand that a person's perspective can be distorted if their inner eye is bad or evil. Isa 5:20-21

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight!

C. Even genuine Christians can, at times, have a distorted perspective in some areas and be in need of divine enlightenment. Ephesians 1:18-19

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

D. The sad reality is that many who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ are, in fact, in love with this present world, and their priorities and lifestyle choices confirm that they are.

## **III. A divided loyalty. 24**

A. Jesus made a clear statement here when He declared, "You cannot serve God and wealth (riches, mammon)."

B. A person cannot follow Jesus and embrace the world at the same time.

C. A divided loyalty leads to constant conflict and calls the genuineness of our salvation into question. 1 John 2:15

"If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

D. Can we call ourselves a follower of Jesus Christ if we are not actually following Him?

## **APPLICATION**

1. In the closing verses of this chapter Jesus told His followers:

- a. To focus on that on that which is life indeed. 25
- b. To trust God for our daily needs. 25-32
- c. To seek first (to advance) God's Kingdom and His righteousness.
- d. To live each day to its fullest.

2. As we reflect on the year that was, and the year ahead, we should be able to praise God for progress made and the inevitability of future progress.

3. Let us, as our first priority, seek to advance God's Kingdom and His righteousness in our own lives and in the lives of others.