

For Our Information

Ruben Keisler will be on crutches for a while as he recovers from knee surgery.

John Jackson will have shoulder surgery on February 10th.

Phyllis Jackson is staying with Ricky & Theresa to help them with doctor's appointment and Theresa's recovery.

This time of year often brings many down with cold & flu symptoms. Remember to check on one another. **Keep our brothers & sisters in mind**

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

the things of heaven, the things that have to do with your Father in heaven. Only these will last." His call is not simply to a better and more lasting treasure but to a total allegiance, and absolute commitment. To have one's treasure in heaven simply means to submit oneself completely to that which is in heaven --God's sovereign rule ("*Thy Will be done...*"). This is the theme that follows in the succeeding verses (**Matthew 6:22-24**). The key to understanding this whole section is found in **Matthew 6:21**: "*Where thy treasure is, there will thy heart be also...*" The Lord is far more concerned with what a man does with his heart than with what he does with his goods. Things are not our problem.

God created them. An appreciation of things is not our problem. They have God given purpose. The love of things is our problem (**1Timothy 6:9-10**) -- the disposition to let some moth-eaten old garbage take the place of the incorruptible God in our hearts.

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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Seeking His Righteousness

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The Committed Heart

Paul Earnhart

With **Matthew 6:19-24**, Jesus outlines His theme of the Christian's absolute love of God, but from a new direction. The first and fundamental threat to that love arises from self--the pride and arrogance which corrupt all our attempts at piety (**Matthew 6:1-18**). Following closely upon the problem of ego is the challenge of "the world" -- not the universe, or the people in it, but the "world" as a mindset, a system of values, a way of looking at life that treasures the present and the tangible above everything else (**Luke 12:15**).

The section of the Sermon is a call



All a man's labor is for his mouth and yet the appetite is not satisfied.
Ecclesiastes 6:7



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

TannerSt.com

to unreserved commitment in the choice between earth and heaven. Jesus begins by demonstrating why that commitment ought to be made to God and continues with two illustrations calculated to show the wretchedness and impossibility of trying to "ride the fence."

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth..." Jesus' warning about earthly treasures must not be trivialized into a prohibition of bank accounts or the mere possession of anything material. This admonition does not address the question of how much of this world's goods the kingdom citizen ought to possess but is concerned with his attitude toward them. The "treasures" of this text are understood to be whatever a man puts his whole heart into. They are not just things we value but things we value above all else. Our treasures and our persons become one.

Jesus' observations about the temporaries and uncertainties of such things as loathing, food and money constituted no news to His hearers. The world of our Lord's day was even more visibly fragile than our own. In their simple conditions, rot and mildew, insect and worm attacked their storehouses with a vengeance and their mud-brick walls offered no deterrent to thieves who could wipe out a lifetime overnight. Our modern refrigeration, closely guarded banks and casualty insurance often cause us to feel safely removed from the impermanence of the ancient world -- but we should all know better. All "things" are subject to ultimate decay, the genius of man notwithstanding. It is impossible to secure material wealth against the ravages of time and circumstance. It is removed from us or we are

Store In My Heart

John 6:44-46

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me--not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father.

We are not even able to find God unless He provides a path into His presence.

That path is Jesus of Nazareth, The Christ, The Savior, The Son of God. Without Jesus we cannot find God no matter how focused our search.

The Word revealed by the inspired men of God will direct us to the Father only because it is the revelation of Jesus.

separated from it (**Ecclesiastes 6:13-15; Luke 12:20**), and if we had it forever it would not bring us lasting satisfaction (**Ecclesiastes 5:9-10; 6:7**). Jesus means to protect us from the horror of seeing our whole lives go up in smoke (**2Peter 3:10**).

It doesn't take much intellect to see that to rest one's very soul on such insubstantial vapor is an act of folly, but we must never underestimate the power of covetousness to turn our common sense into quivering jelly. We are living in an age which values men by the wealth they collect. It is madness, of course, but this spirit can breathe itself into us before we know it and suddenly we find ourselves mindlessly grubbing for "things" like all the rest. Materialism is destroying many, some even while they are faithfully "going to church." The charade continues but their heart is no longer in it. Prosperity has become the trial of those of us who live in what is perhaps the richest society in human history, and it is severe. Thomas Carlyle once observed that for every ten men who can stand adversity there is one that can stand prosperity.

"...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven..." This is not an exhortation to find a way to transfer the things we treasure on earth to a heavenly bank. If so, there is no information given about how to accomplish it. I once heard of a man whose love for his house and land, together with his premillennial speculations, moved him to see a means of guaranteeing the return of his property when the Lord came to establish His kingdom on the earth. The treasures of heaven are altogether of a different kind than those we might store up here.

Jesus's message is a simple one: "Learn to cherish