

Treasure

(COL 2:3) CHRIST, IN WHOM ARE HIDDEN ALL THE TREASURES OF WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE.

What is treasure? What does God consider to be treasure and what do you consider to be so valuable that you call it your treasure? Let us examine the scriptures to find the divine perspective about treasure.

1. Definition & Description

OT Hebrew

a. Treasury (owtsar)

(Josh 6:19, 24) spoils of war from Jericho were commanded to be kept for the treasury of the Lord

(1King 7:51) Solomon placed silver & gold in the treasury of the Lord's temple;

(1King 14:26) Rehoboam carried off the treasures from the temple of the Lord.

- The treasury of the temple is comparable to the bank account of the church
- God desired that believers in Israel tithe & contribute money to the temple

b. Treasures of Kings (cegullah)

(1Chr 29:3) King David's personal treasures of gold and silver that he gave to the Lord's temple;

(Ecc 2:8) Solomon gathered together the treasures of kings.

(Ex 19:5; Deut 7:6, 14:2, and 26:18) The treasure of God the King is Israel

(Psm 135:4) The treasure of God the King is Jacob

(Malachi 3:17) the treasure of God the King is those who fear the Lord

- The kings of the ancient world amassed great wealth – treasures
- These treasuries were made up of gold, silver and precious metals
- God's treasure is those who He has called to be His children – real treasure

c. Earthly Wealth (chocen) [kho-sen] wealth, strength, power;– the reward of the righteous

(Prov 27:24) wealth is not forever

(Ezek 22:25) prophets steal the people's wealth

(Isa 33:6) Messiah will bring a wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge and His wealth is the fear of the Lord.

- Wealth is strength and power during life on the earth – not forever
- Messiah shared His wealth – salvation, wisdom and knowledge
- His wealth was His relationship with His heavenly Father

NT Greek

a. **Thesaurus – (noun)**

the place in which good and precious things are collected and laid up; a casket, coffer, or other receptacle, in which valuables are kept; a treasury, storehouse, repository, magazine; the things laid up in a treasury; **Thesaurizo (verb)** – to lay up, store, save, keep as treasure, set aside.

b. **Treasury – gazophulakion**

Collection box in the temple

- Treasure is whatever one holds to be valuable. (Mt 6:21) where your treasure is, your heart will be also.
- What is in you (2Cor 4:7); loved ones (Ex 19:5) possessions (Lk 12:13-15).

2. **Jesus described the beliefs held in the heart as treasures**

(Matthew 12:35) A good man out of the good treasure of the heart expresses good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure expresses evil things. (Lk 6:45)

- Whatever one accepts and holds in his heart is called his treasure
- Jesus refers to beliefs that determine our value system – what we treasure

(Matthew 13:52) And He said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings forth out of his treasure things new and old."

- Student of the law who is instructed in the truth of the Kingdom of heaven
- Jesus calls the truth of the word in his heart, treasure

3. **Paul describes the light of the gospel as treasure we carry in our bodies.**

(2 Corinthians 4:7) But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

- The treasure is the gospel that shined the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ into our hearts – wisdom and knowledge hid in Christ.
- We carry this gospel in our weak bodies to show that the power is from God.
- True treasure is knowing that we are powerless and that the gospel is God's power

4. **Moses decided that life with Christ was more valuable than great wealth.**

(Heb 11:24-26) Moses rejected the rule of Egypt and the earthly treasures of Egypt and accepted the suffering that went with association with Christ

- Moses saw the eternal reward for bel's as more valuable than earthly treasures

5. Mary treasured the events related to the birth of Jesus.

(Luke 2:19) But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

- The shepherds visited the manger with a report of an angelic announcement
- Mary saw the fulfillment of God's promises to her & Israel in her baby Son.

6. Jesus warned His disciples not to trust in earthly treasure but to use earthly treasures to invest in a heavenly savings program.

(Lk 12:13-33): (13-15) beware of all kinds of greed; life isn't about abundance of possessions; (16-21) Rich Fool – those who treasure things for themselves and are not rich toward God; (22-34) don't worry about food & clothing, bird watching, don't set your heart on provisions, seek kingdom and all will be given to you; do not be afraid, GF is pleased to give you the kingdom; sell your possessions and give to the poor; make a savings program that you cannot lose, a treasure in heaven that won't wear out, that will never run out, where you cannot lose it.

- Greed – **pleonexia** – intensely desire more; grasping – idolatry worship of things
- Abundant belongings do not = +H; don't set your heart on having an abundance
- Develop a heavenly investment program, not an earthly one – sell/give your things
- Earthly treasure is connected to security – retirement – no security in this life
- Heavenly savings program can't be lost and never gives out

(Mt 6:19-21) don't store earthly treasures, store heavenly treasures – where your heart is
(Mt 19:16-29) Rich Ruler – sell your things, give to poor, will have treasures in heaven

Most of us were taught to work hard and save money for a rainy day. Jesus said that God provides for the day and that the wise man invests his time, efforts and money in an eternal savings plan. He warned us not to work to store up earthly riches because it causes us to be poor towards God. I wonder how many Believers will leave this life with sound retirement programs, leave their treasures to others and arrive in heaven with nothing in their heavenly accounts. The wise man invests in the eternal savings program and cares little about building earthly wealth.

Give it to God for His kingdom.