

“Serve GOD or Serve Your Stuff (*Idols*)”
Matthew 6: 19-24

February 20, 2022

This mirror was originally in the Fun House at Palisades Park Circa 1933



The Bible is not against wealth, property, or possessions

**The Bible's focus is the right view of "STUFF"
1 Timothy 6: 17-18**

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER:

"IT'S NOT MINE! I am a steward, a caretaker, of the Master's property"

Verse 19 - 21

Two Treasures Contrasted

Treasure #1 – Earth's Treasures

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth”

Lay up = *“thesaurizo”* = do not treasure
treasure (Robert Dean)

Everything wears out:

***“ . . . where moth and rust destroy and
where thieves break in and steal”***

**The flesh-driven human is never satisfied;
they always want more, always bigger, never
fulfilled**





Everything in this world wears out!

It's called ***“ENTROPY”***

The ***“Second Law of Thermodynamics”*** says that entropy always increases with time

There is a gradual decline into disorder

Treasure #2 – Heaven's Treasures

“ *treasures in heaven*” = the rewards God will give His faithful followers

Make no mistake: We are saved by grace through faith alone
Ephesians 2: 8-9

Make no mistake: Once saved, we are to do good works
Ephesians 2: 10

Where will we be rewarded?

The Bema Seat Judgment

1 Corinthians 3: 11-15

Eschatological Timeline (*Pretribulation View*)



Things done for self will account for nothing!
They will be burned up as wood, hay, and
stubble - **USELESS!!**

Invest in a solid future!
Hebrews 6: 10

Verse 22 - 23

Good Heart vs Bad Heart

A “*good eye*” is showing what is in the soul,
and the heart – *healthy and generous!*

A “*bad eye*” is tight and stingy with money -
“IT’S MINE!!”



**"I am King
Baby!"**



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and the heart – **healthy and generous!**

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“IT’S MINE!!”

Bad eye = “It’s Mine!”

**Good eye = “It’s God’s!” - Proverbs 28: 22
Proverbs 22: 9**

STEWARD = one who manages another's affairs
and property

I am a steward of three (3) things:

- 1) Who I am – **2 Corinthians 5: 15**
- 2) What I have – **James 1: 17**
- 3) What I do – **1 Peter 4: 10**

CAREFUL: The “*stuff*” idols want to capture your soul

IMPORTANT: You can have stuff, but don't allow
your stuff to have you – **1 Timothy 6: 17**

Verse 24

Choose you this day whom you will serve

Who are you serving?

Serve = “*douleuo*” = from *doulos* (to be enslaved to), to be in bondage to

You cannot serve or be enslaved to God, and money (*the stuff idols*)

A divided allegiance is non-allegiance!

God will cause you to choose! – Isaiah 42: 8



CLOSING THOUGHTS:

Joshua gives a heads-up on how to be blessed in this evil world – Joshua 24: 14-15

Each person must decide whom they will serve -
“Stuff” gods or the *“True God”*

God’s promise to those who choose to serve Him:

Psalm 119: 165

John 14: 27

John 16: 23

Hebrews 13: 5

The **“stuff” gods** cannot give you anything but stuff – ***a constant lack of fulfillment and peace!***

Satan is the chief of the **“stuff” gods**:

“The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy”
John 10: 10a

JESUS:

“I have come that they may have life, and they may have it more abundantly” - John 10: 10b

**When your world caves in (*and it will*),
*Jesus will be your source of strength and rest!***

Matthew 11: 28

Matthew 28: 20

JESUS made it simple:

JESUS or stuff - You cannot serve both!

Joshua encouraged the nation to choose rightly

Let the whole world know, with boldness
and Holy Spirit strength,

***“AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE,
WE WILL SERVE THE LORD”!***