"Serve GOD or Serve Your Stuff (Idols)" Matthew 6: 19-24



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

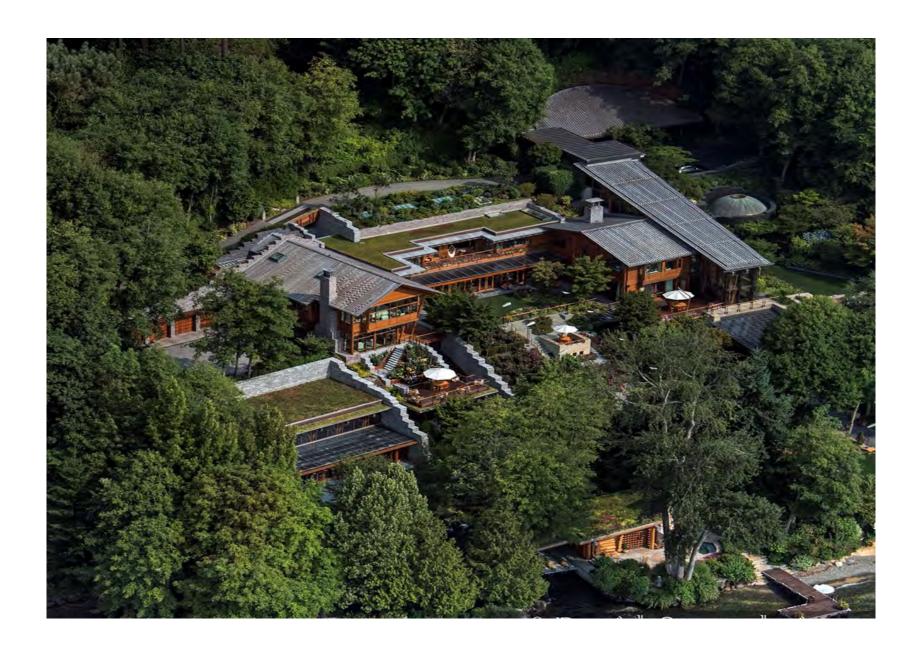
"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth"

<u>Lay up</u> = "thesaurizo" = do not 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

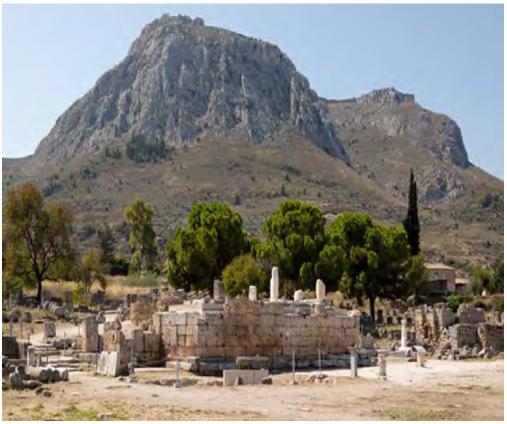
Ephesians 2: 10

Where will we be rewarded?

The Bema Seat Judgment

1 Corinthians 3: 11-15





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 <u>vs</u> 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!!"





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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 <u>James 1: 17</u>
- 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?

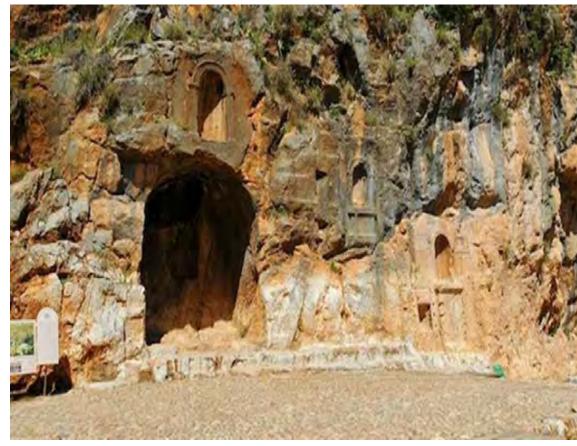
Serve = "douleuo" = from doulos (to be enslaved to), to be in bondage to

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 - <u>Joshua 24: 14-15</u>

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 <u>or</u> stuff - <u>You cannot serve both!</u>

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"!