



Dear Partners,

March 2023

We're so grateful for you, friend! Thank you to those of you that have been partnering with us for some time now. If you are a new partner in this Ministry, we welcome you and thank you for choosing to store up for yourselves treasures in heaven by sowing into the good ground of this Ministry. Your faithful prayers and support are vital to the work of this Ministry and makes it possible for us to reach precious souls with the uncompromised Gospel of Jesus Christ. Nothing on this earth is as fulfilling and satisfying as spreading the love and compassion of Jesus to those who are without hope and peace. Jesus is the only hope for this world and His return is very near. With everything going on in the world today, it makes us question what matters most to us? Growing our relationship with Christ or working hard to acquire earthly possessions?

*"I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with Him." -Apostle Paul, Phil. 3:7-9*

Paul's statement in Philippians might be hard for most Christians in our modern world to comprehend. Most modern Christians aren't penetrated by the love of Christ and His Word anymore. Most people have become neutral, numb and even accepting of how the world around us is changing. Apostle Paul was so radically changed after he accepted Christ that he counted everything in his former life as garbage to the point of becoming a martyr for Jesus Christ. The King James translation uses the word dung- which is manure! Paul compared the value of his earthly (temporary) treasures with knowing Christ and he called them manure, pure garbage. Paul's heart was on heavenly treasures, not earthly ones. It's amazing to see how many divine revelations were given to him and how much of the New Testament was written by Paul. Likewise, in the Old Testament, we find Solomon, who was the wisest and wealthiest king who had ever lived (1 Kings 3:12). But we see in Ecclesiastes 2, at the end of his life, after he surveyed all that he had done, he found that everything was meaningless, "like chasing the wind". We have to remember that life on this earth is temporary and subject to change like King Solomon realized. On the other hand, eternity is forever and it's important to store up for ourselves treasures in heaven, not here on earth. Jesus said where our treasure is, there our heart will be also.

*"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21*

In Mark 10 we find the story about the rich man who asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus went on to explain that he must follow the commandments in the Old Testament. The rich man replied and said, "Teacher, all these I have kept since I was a boy." Jesus, in a loving way, said to him, "One thing you lack. Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasures in heaven. Then come, follow Me." The man went away sad because he was very rich and not willing to give up everything for Christ. It's important to note that Jesus did not want the riches of this man. He wanted to see if his heart was attached to his earthly treasures or if he was willing to give up everything for Christ. Sadly, the rich man was attached to his earthly treasures and walked away from Jesus. The Bible says, *"He went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions."* Where are you storing your treasures? Have you ever stopped to think about that?

Paul's life got me thinking about my own grandfather and how the day of salvation came to him towards the end of his life. He received Jesus as his Lord and Savior at the age of 77 and lived another 12 years the most content and satisfied he had ever been. My grandfather served in both WW1 and WW2 and lived through the hard communist regime in Romania for many years. He had everything taken away from him twice in his lifetime, including homes and lands. Because of all the hardships he endured, he became a hard, hateful person and did not trust anyone. But

praise the Lord that his life was radically transformed when he accepted Jesus Christ in his life! Christ gave him a new heart, a new love and compassion. His sole desire was to spread the Gospel to every person he met. He donated his home and possessions to a large family in need, he and my grandmother moved into my old bedroom and he became a servant of Jesus Christ. He spent his last years testifying of what Jesus had done for him and how his life was totally changed. We have to remember, dear friend, that this all took place while Romania was still under heavy communism and it was risky to share your faith, but he continued to share his testimony regardless. What a beautiful story of how God can take any person, at any age, transform and use them for His glory. Like Apostle Paul, the more my grandfather fell in love with Jesus, the less the worldly things had any value to him.

Our dear friend, the deeper we go into a relationship with Christ, the less valuable these earthly things will become to us. We've been receiving a lot of feedback from our programs, Facebook lives and emails from people who are fearful of the uncertainty around them like the war in Ukraine, earthquakes in various places like Turkey and Romania, and the direction of where the economy is headed. People allow fear and panic to set in because their earthly possessions could be taken away in an instant. But we, as believers, do not put our trust in anything on this earth except in Jesus Christ and His Word. Proverbs 11:28 says, *"He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like the green leaf."*

My grandfather's relationship with Christ flourished and became so deep that nothing else on this earth mattered. He was willing to give up anything and everything because his love for Jesus had completely changed his heart. He was so spiritually connected that he knew the day he was going to be with the Lord. He saw the heavens open and heard a great choir of angels singing and glorifying God! He asked his daughter, my mother, if she heard the choir of angels and said, "I'm going home today, I'm going home." My mother replied, "But you are home, daddy." He looked at her and said, "No, you don't understand. Today, I'm going to my heavenly home." He peacefully went to be with Jesus knowing that he finished his race on this earth. His treasure was stored up in heaven where the moth and dust do not destroy. As our love for Jesus grows, our relationship with Him gets deeper and more intimate with each passing day. Gradually the things of this world stop satisfying us and we become more focused on heavenly things.

We want to leave you with the chorus of a hymn entitled, *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* by Helen H. Lemmel.

***Turn your eyes upon Jesus,***

***Look full in His wonderful face,***

***And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,***

***In the light of His glory and grace.***

Lord, let this be the cry of our heart!

In His Service,

*John & Alexandra*