

“Yet surely we may say that to ‘lay up treasures in heaven’ is to do anything on earth whose effects last for eternity.” **John R.W. Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*, 156.**

“It seems rather to refer to such things as these: the development of Christlike character (since all we can take to heaven is ourselves); the increase of faith, hope, and charity, all of which (Paul said) ‘abide’; growth in the knowledge of Christ whom one day we shall see face to face; the active endeavor (by prayer and witness) to introduce others to Christ, so that they too may inherit eternal life; and the use of our money for Christian causes, which is the only investment whose dividends are everlasting. “All these are temporal activities with eternal consequences. This then is ‘treasure in heaven’. No burglar can steal this, and no vermin destroy it. For there are neither moths, nor mice, nor marauders in heaven. So treasure in heaven is secure.” **John R.W. Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*, 156.**

**1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19:** “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> Command them to *do good*, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup> In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”

## REASON #2: An Attachment to Earthly Treasures Reveals the \_\_\_\_\_ of my \_\_\_\_\_.

**MATTHEW 6:21-23:** “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>22</sup> “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”

“Treasures are things we try to keep because of a value we place upon them. They may be of no value whatsoever in themselves; nevertheless, we take great pains to protect such things. Thus we are said to treasure them.” **Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*, 203.**

***So what do you treasure? Do you treasure it more than Christ?***

**MATTHEW 10:37-39:** “Anyone who loves his father or mother *more than me* is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter *more than me* is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup> and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

## LUKE 14:25-35

“By telling us that our hearts follow our treasure, Jesus is saying, ‘show me your checkbook, your visa statement, and your receipts, and I’ll show you where your heart is.’ **Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle*, 42.**

“God is looking for your heart. He isn’t looking just for ‘donors’ for His kingdom, those who stand outside the cause and dispassionately consider acts of philanthropy. He’s looking for disciples immersed in the causes they give to. He wants people so filled with a vision for eternity that they wouldn’t dream of not investing their money, time, and prayers where they will matter most.” **Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle*, 43.**

“The most important commandment of the Judeo-Christian tradition is to treasure God and his realm more than anything else. That is what it means to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. **It means to treasure him, to hold him and his dear, and to protect and aid him in his purposes.** Our only wisdom, safety, and fulfillment lies in so treasuring God.” **Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*, 203.**

## REASON #3: An Attachment to Earthly Treasures Reveals my \_\_\_\_\_.

**MATTHEW 6:24:** “ “No one can serve two masters. Either he will ***hate the one*** and ***love the other***, or he will be ***devoted to the one*** and ***despise the other.*** You cannot serve both God and Money.”

- Anything I treasure above Jesus is called \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 19:16-30).

**EXODUS 20:1-5:** “And God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup>“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>3</sup>“You shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup>“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God...”

- Anyone who is \_\_\_\_\_ is an idolater (Luke 12:13-21; Colossians 3:5).

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Psalm 73:25; 23:1; Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:6-8;  
Philippians 4:11-13.

Our greatest need is to be broken over our *materialism, greed, covetousness, envy, discontent, and dissatisfaction* and cling desperately & wholeheartedly to Jesus our greatest TREASURE!

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

If your life has been impacted by the DEEPER series, then Pastor Cory would like to hear about it. Send him an email today at smccory@gmail.com. Pastor Cory is looking for a few people to share their story on Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup> at our DEEPER finale.

### Take time for prayer.

1. What did you learn from Sunday's message? Did the Holy Spirit speak to you about something in your life? If so, what did He say to you?
2. Do you have any earthy treasures you have difficulty putting before Jesus? What should you do with them?
3. Approximately 15% of what Jesus said has to do with money. Why do you think he spoke of it so often?
4. Why are both fasting & giving so difficult for Americans?
5. Why is it that in Small Groups and accountable relationships many are okay with asking questions like: "Are you in the Word?" "Are you taking time for prayer?" and "Are you maintaining sexual purity?" but they are not okay with the question "Are you robbing God?" (Malachi 3:6-12). Shouldn't the issue of money be as much a part of our discipleship as the others?
6. God expects his people to give a tenth of all they make (a tithe). The average Christian in North America gives only 1-2% and many give nothing. Why? How could SMC be different if everyone gave a full tithe? How would missions be impacted? How would injustice be stopped? How would child trafficking be affected? How would...?

## Series: "DEEPER"

### Today's Message: "Treasuring Christ Above All Else"

SMC / Pastor Cory Anderson / 11.28.10

### INTRODUCTION:

**MATTHEW 6:19-24:** "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>22</sup> "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! <sup>24</sup> "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

### REASON #1: An Attachment to Earthly Treasures Reveals my Lack of \_\_\_\_\_

**MATTHEW 6:19-20:** "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."

- Our Earthly Treasures Are \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 49:16-17; 78:39; 90:10-12; 1 Peter 2:24; James 4:14).
- Our Heavenly Treasures Are \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 90:2; Daniel 7:14; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; 2 Corinthians 4:18; 1 Timothy 6:17-18; 1 Peter 1:3-5).