**TREASURES IN HEAVEN – PART 1 JCC 04/05/14**

‘Heaven is a wonderful place, full of glory and grace. I want to see my Savior’s face, Heaven is a wonderful place – I wanna’ go there ….’

We used to sing this chorus years ago, but it holds a fantastic truth. Our greatest treasure here on earth, and for eternity, is and should be, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! When He is your greatest treasure, you will find yourself joyfully committing ALL your resources – time, energy, thoughts, money, talents, skills – to His work here on earth.

Key scripture **– Matthew 6:19-21 ‘Do not lay up for yourselves treasure 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 will your heart be also.’**

Three points to note:

1) Earthly treasures have problems – they are soon lost through moth and rust corruption and destruction; by thieves stealing them.

2) Heavenly treasures are secure – no moth, rust or thieves. Jesus is not saying that having a home, car and a good living is wrong, He is trying to show us what is more valuable; what is more important; what will last longer. We ought to want and labor for heavenly treasure far more than earthly things – which are all going to burn up, aren’t they? Don’t kill yourself for what is only temporal.

3) **YOU** must lay up **YOUR** treasure in heaven – your wife, your husband, your friends, your pastor cannot do it for you, and God won’t – it is completely up to you. The things of this earth have no eternal value or permanence; they are not durable; we can’t take them with us. Therefore it makes no sense to devote your whole heart and life to something so fleeting, to something that will soon be gone.

The Life Application Bible **Colossians 3:1-4 ‘Since you became live again, so to speak, when Christ rose from the dead, now set your sights on the rich treasures and joys of heaven where he sits beside God in the place of honor and power. Let heaven fill your thoughts; don’t spend your time worrying about things down here. You should have as little desire for this world as a dead person does. Your real life is in heaven with Christ and God. And when Christ, who is our real life, comes back again, you will shine with Him and share in all His glories.’**

I might add, ‘For all eternity!’ Allow Christ to shape you into what you should be, not what you want to be. Allow Him to lead you into what He wants you to do with your life, not what you want to do with it. This leads into another marvelous subject called **SURRENDER** to the will of God for your life. A dead man feels no pain; he has no ambitions; he is unresponsive to evil desires; he has no lustful desires; he has no driving desire or greed for more of anything. That is how we are to live our lives here while on earth. ‘This earth is not our home, we are only traveling through, our treasures are laid up, somewhere beyond the blue…’ Our real home is where Christ lives and where we will live for eternity, with Him. We need to gain the right perspective on this life and the purpose for living here on earth. This is our preparation time for eternity! Do not fix your eyes and thoughts on what is only temporary; don’t become so attached to earthly possessions, but let heaven fill our thoughts – that will draw us closer to God and closer to fulfilling His will in our lives.

Let’s go back to the word surrender.