



***"Do not lay up
for yourselves
treasures on
earth,"*** Matthew 6:19a

Now, to whom am I writing these words. Surely, you are not guilty of doing this. I certainly am not guilty. Or, are we?

As many of you know, Gail has been settling Betty R. Long's estate, sorting out her things and giving them to appropriate people, or, putting them into the dumpster! She did this a number of years ago for her aunt and uncle. We may have to do the same thing some day for my step-mother.

In taking care of these things for other people, I have become acutely aware of how little time it would take someone to scoop up all my precious *treasures on earth* and deposit them in a dumpster.

It is not that you and I really hoard things, but we all "need" certain things to live with. Gail and I have items that will go into the dumpster when we are gone, but they are important to us now. I wonder how long it would have taken to settle Noah's estate? Abrahams? As the years have gone by, we need more and more "things" just to get us through each day.

Now, I am not advocating that you go home and throw all your things away. But maybe, we should stop and think how much time we have to spend fiddling with these things and how little time we have left to *lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.* Matthew 6:20

Maybe it is time to look our homes over and take inventory. Is this item really a time-saver that will give me more time to work on heavenly treasures? Could I get along just as well without this item and have more time?

Actually, what we are really talking about is priorities. The Lord knows we have need for certain things, but He told us,

Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:31-33

"Things" are not always what they seem to be. I have been told time and time again how computers are such great time savers and how they cut back on the need of paper. Well, they aren't. I actually use a lot more paper now than I used to. I spend more time doing things than I used to (although I can now do them better).

We all have a tendency to hold on to things. Paul wrote, *Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come--and the books, especially the parchments.* II Timothy 4:13

I wonder if he really needed these items or if they were just things that he had that made him feel better - like teddy bears.

The author of Hebrews wrote, *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,* Hebrews 12:1

Not only do we have a lot of excess physical baggage, I believe most of us have an excess of mental baggage as well. *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.* Philippians 4:8

Let's all make an effort to spend more of our time on spiritual things and leave the others to the rest of the world to worry about!

Wayne

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