

Doctrinal Summary of The Heart of Man-Magnifier of Treasure

In Matthew 6:20 Jesus commands His disciples to store up treasures in heaven, rather than on earth.

“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

The words “store up” are translated from the Koine Greek word *θησαυρίζετε* (“thae-saur-id-ze-teh”) which more literally means, “you all are commanded to perform the continuous type of action to store for safekeeping what is deemed valuable.” Jesus commands His disciples to store for safekeeping what they deem valuable. They are to store what they deem valuable in heaven rather than on earth. In order to store something in heaven man must value what is spiritual and eternal rather than the physical and temporal (temporarily present, but perishable over time). Eternal things are spiritually produced while temporal things are produced carnally (cf. 1 Cor. 3:12-15; 1 Jn. 2:16-17). Thus, Jesus is commanding His disciples to produce spiritual fruit which is eternal in nature. Then He explains that the reason for this is because their heart will follow their treasure in Matthew 6:21.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The word “treasure” is translated from the Koine Greek word *θησαυρός* (“thae-saur-os”) which more literally means, “that which is stored for safekeeping as a result of being deemed valuable, based on initiation.” It refers to something which has been identified by an individual as valuable resulting in it being put into a storehouse for safekeeping. The value of the object is based on initiation; the person is the one who initiates the value he deems the object to have. Value can be assigned based upon usefulness, worthiness, pleasure, advantageousness, and preference. Thus, one man’s perspective of an object’s value (or lack thereof) may differ from another man’s perspective of the same object. Consequently, one man may discard the object as if it were junk, while another man might pursue the same object as his treasure. The actions of each man are derived from his evaluation of the object and corresponding beliefs regarding its pursuit.

Because every action produced by man is the result of the beliefs stored in his heart, his heart will follow what he values. If he values the eternal, spiritual things of God then his beliefs will be modified in order to acquire and share in the eternal, spiritual things of God. If he values the temporal, physical things of this world, then his beliefs will be modified to acquire and share in the temporal things of this world. His belief system will follow that which he values. Thus, the heart (belief system) of man is an excellent magnifier of what man deems to be valuable.

As man carries out actions, his beliefs (that which he is relying upon) are revealed. As man’s beliefs are revealed, that which he values is put on display. When the value man has placed on something fails to agree with God’s appraised value of the same thing then his morals, norms and standards, and protocols likewise fail to agree with God’s. When the believer sees this he must admit the reality that he is assigning improper value to that which he has pursued and change his mind concerning the value he has assigned (repent), accepting the value God assigns as his own. Once this is accomplished true confession of sin can occur resulting in God cleansing the believer and restoring him to fellowship again (cf. 1 John 1:9). If the believer does not value things in the same way God does he will continue to sin unnecessarily (cf. 1 John 2:1) and remain out of fellowship with God in discipline (cf. Heb. 12:7).