

Session 7: Different Types of Heavenly Rewards in the Millennial Kingdom

OVERVIEW OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

In 1 Corinthians 2:9 Paul said, “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things that God has planned for those who love Him.” In this session, we are looking at the heavenly rewards. This gives us insight into the things that God has planned for the saints.

It is common for believers in this age to be focused almost entirely upon increase in this age. There is increase of finance, an increase of the anointing, increase of favor in relationships and positions. It is absolutely biblical to apply our faith for increase in this age. It is not biblical to make it our primary focus though this is a common thing that believers do. What the Holy Spirit is calling us to is to come into agreement with God’s greater plan for our life.

This is what the hearing of the Word does to us. It brings us into agreement with God’s higher plan and higher prosperity for our life. We can be focused on increase in this age while being focused on greater increase in the age to come.

This is our seventh session on the millennial kingdom. The millennial kingdom is the 1000-year reign of Christ on the earth. It begins at the time of the Second Coming. Really the subject of the Millennium is the subject of heaven on earth.

What will it be like? What will we do when heaven comes to the earth in the first installment, that first “day” of eternity? Because to the Lord one thousand years are like a day and one thousand days are like a year. The first age of the age to come is the millennial kingdom. After this there is the eternal age, the eternal realm that begins after 1000 years. We spent our previous session looking at what we will do on the earth in partnership with people with natural bodies.

In the millennial kingdom saints with resurrected bodies will be in partnership with natural bodies. We will live in the New Jerusalem which will descend to the earth. It will be true that we live in heaven, the New Jerusalem, our treasure will be in heaven in the New Jerusalem, but the New Jerusalem is coming to the

earth. We will live in heaven and live on the earth. It will be in a sense that we are living in both realms.

The people with natural bodies who have not yet died physically and are not raptured, those that survive the Great Tribulation but were unsaved and did not take the mark of the beast, will get converted in this transition period. We will rule over them and we will be involved with them.

We will be involved with them in the way that angels are involved with us in this age. We do not see much angelic involvement. Every now and then an angel appears and we tell the story. Angels are involved dynamically with us now. When the Lord appears the veil will be lifted and the two realms will be visibly and dynamically interacting. The two realms are interacting now but the veil has not been lifted so we do not see the interactions of the demons and the angels. Surely the interaction is very, very intense. It is very prolific and dynamic. The interaction is not casual. It is an intense interaction. We are not that aware of it, but at the time of the Second Coming when the veil is lifted, the interaction will become apparent.

In the previous session we looked at what we will be doing with those with natural bodies. We will be rebuilding cities and training the nations. In this session, we will be looking more at the supernatural, where the heavenly dimension of the reward is on the saints. We are looking at what we will be doing, but from a different angle; what we will possess in terms of a supernatural and heavenly reward from the hand of Jesus.

INTRODUCTION TO HEAVENLY REWARDS

Roman numeral I: There are many types of heavenly rewards. We will receive these supernatural heavenly rewards at the time of the Second Coming of Christ when the Church is raptured to meet the Lord in the air. The point of the rapture is to receive our resurrected bodies and to receive our heavenly reward in order to reign upon the earth. It is not to go away to heaven; it is for heaven to come to the earth.

Heavenly rewards are not of secondary importance. We need come into agreement with God's greater vision for our life. That is what heavenly rewards are. Rewards give me insight into what God has planned for our life, for the destiny of our lives on the earth. It is not just our life in heaven far away. It is

our life on the earth because heaven is coming to the earth at the time of the Second Coming. All of us should be familiar with heavenly rewards because they are part of our destiny.

Heavenly rewards need to be a part of our life plan. The same way that the heir of a financial fortune would be focused on what they are going to inherit. Or, a person who is investing a great sum, some earthly investment, are aware of the details of what they are investing.

Why is it that with something as awesome as eternal heavenly rewards, so many believers are almost entirely illiterate on this vast subject that pertains to their own greatness, their own glory, and their own pleasure? I think it is a work of darkness that has blinded the eyes of the church to something so dynamically important and personal to each one of us that lasts so long. It lasts forever.

Paragraph B: in Revelation 2 and 3 Jesus gave the most in-depth teaching in the Bible on our heavenly or eternal rewards. He pointed out twenty-two different and specific rewards.

Some of them are overlapped. He knew that we would need to know them to be sufficiently motivated and stabilized through the events that are described in the book of Revelation, the great glory as well as the great crisis. We need to know them.

Paragraph C: I like to say this over and over and over. You cannot hear this enough. There will be a vast difference in every single believer of the degree of glory and greatness or the lack of it that we will experience as born again believers with resurrected bodies. It will be very different. All of us will have a different experience with the Lord in this.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:19 (paraphrased) that “some would be called least and some would be called greatest.” I guess the majority are somewhere in between. We are talking about in the age to come. That is not in the kingdom of this age. It is in the age to come and it is based only on the responsiveness of our heart in this age. It has nothing to do with how big or small your ministry is right now.

Paragraph E: rewards are not automatic. Salvation is free. Salvation is given because of what Jesus did for us. Rewards are given in our response of loving gratitude to what Jesus gave to us freely. Jesus gave Himself freely to us and for us. Our response of gratitude, which means our obedience, is what our rewards

are a manifestation of —the measure of our grateful love that we responded with, to the Lord for His indescribable gift of salvation.

In John 20:29 (paraphrased), Jesus said, “Blessed are those who believe without seeing.” The only time you can do this is for the few moments of your life on the earth before the Second Coming or before physical death. In the age to come, for billions of billions of billions of years, this blessing is not available to you or to me. We only have this blessing for a moment of time, seventy years on the earth. This is the time of the great exchange.

This is when the exchange rate is the highest. You can give small acts of obedience and devotion to the Lord and the return is far beyond 100-fold. We will not have this return rate ever again, except while we are on the earth in a fleshly body. When Jesus says, “You are blessed,” in Matthew 5:3-10 (paraphrased) one of the things it means is that we receive the high rate of return. Right now. This is the only time we can receive it.

Paragraph H: this is the time where few things are turned into many things. These are the few things: the movements of our heart to obey Him that nobody sees. They do not even seem that powerful. We humble ourselves. We give ourselves to seek Him when we do not feel His presence. We feel a little out of the mood to focus on God but we do it. Those are the few things. We serve and nobody appreciates it. Or worse, you serve and you get criticized for the way you served. Those few things are turned into many things in the age to come.

We are going to look at nine different categories of eternal rewards, heavenly rewards. This number nine is not particular. If I study it again and lay it out, I might have ten or put two together. I am not putting any great emphasis on the number of categories. You could lay it out a half a dozen ways.

REWARD #1

Category number one is the glory of God in our resurrected bodies. This is so exciting. Again, I like to say this over and over. There is a vast difference in the degree of glory you will have in your resurrected body from other saints. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:41-42, “There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead.”

It is not just our resurrected bodies that differ, the whole realm, our entire experience in the resurrection will be as unique and differing as the billions of stars differ from one another in the milky way galaxy or the entire universe.

They say that there are over 100 million galaxies of which the Milky Way is one of the smaller ones. The stars differ so much from one another in glory. So will the saints in the age to come. Beloved, we have one moment of time. Seventy years on the earth. Some will have more and some less. Daniel the prophet talked in Daniel 12:3 (paraphrased) about those who sleep in the dust that shall awake. Of course that is the resurrection. And he said that, “those who are wise will shine like brightness.”

The bodies of the wise will have brightness. Their garments will have brightness. Their crowns will have brightness. The wise. In the place of the word “wisdom”, put, “those who gain revelation of God and His Word.”

It does not mean you are a famous teacher. It does not mean you are articulate. You may not even be able to communicate it well. Those who have gained heart understanding of God and His Word. That is what wisdom is. These ones will shine. The glory they receive in understanding the Word will be reflected in their body, their garments, their crowns, their mansions. All of these sorts of things will reflect the glory of the shining of the firmament.

Those who turn many to righteousness will shine like stars—if you motivate someone else to choose righteousness. This is not just those who lead someone to the Lord. Certainly it is that. I am talking some of you into a greater degree of commitment to righteousness tonight.

This is being recorded to my account. If one of you makes a choice to be more dedicated in righteousness, this verse is operating on my behalf. It is the same thing with you. You might be talking to someone in the coffee shop afterward and turning them to a greater response of righteousness. You will shine like stars because of it.

Paragraph B: our resurrected body will be conformed to Jesus’ resurrected body. The Father custom designed, if you will, Jesus’ resurrected body. It was determined in the counsels of the Godhead that Jesus would become human. I cannot imagine the moment that this was communicated. Jesus who is uncreated like the Father and the Spirit will become incarnate. He will become human.

Jesus will have a physical body, die, and be raised again. He will then have a resurrected body. The Father prepared a body for Jesus. He custom made a human physical body, in His infinite wisdom and power, that would reach the highest decree of glory—which God in His wisdom and power could create for a human.

He gave it to Jesus. It is a body that would far surpass that which God designed for the angels. Paul says in Philippians 3:21 (paraphrased) that God then determined that we would have a resurrected body “conformed to His glorious body.” It will not be exactly like Jesus’. We will not have the full degree of glory. It will be like His, but in a lesser degree of glory, depending on our response to God. It will be in the same pattern as what Jesus has, just in a different degree of glory. Some of us will have a body closer to the Lord’s in glory than others.

Paragraph C: when we study Jesus’ resurrected body, it gives us insight into our own resurrected body. This is why it’s important to study this subject.

Paragraph D: We study this by looking at Jesus’ resurrected body. For example: the disciples ate with Jesus. This means that with a resurrected body we will eat physical food.

Paragraph E. Jesus sometimes appeared and disappeared. That does not mean that every saint will be able to do that. I would rather say it this way. Some believers, I am assuming, will have that ability in the glory of God. However, we will not all have the same capacity in His resurrected body. I do not know. The angels all differ in glory and abilities in their supernatural bodies. Some angels have far more power than other angels. Some angels have far more abilities than other angels with their bodies. I am sure that everybody will not be able to do everything Jesus can do with His body, but I believe that some saints will be able to some of what He does.

Some saints will be able to do more than other saints can do. Jesus has one criterion—our responsiveness to Him in this age. It is remarkable how important the Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday are year after year—the routine, the mundane, and day after day under the hot sun in the routine of life. It matters beyond anything we can ever even imagine in this age.

It is all being recorded. In exchange for our little devotion, He gives us many things.

Paragraph F. Our five senses will be touched by the power of God. In our resurrected body we will have supernatural sight. We will have supernatural hearing and supernatural ability to taste, to touch. There will be a supernatural ability on touch. In John 20:21-23 when Jesus touched or breathed upon the disciples, the power of the Holy Spirit hit them. There will be physical dimensions of touch that are beyond what we grasp and even smell.

We will have supernatural ability in the resurrection, different abilities by the way, just like we have different abilities now. There will be different capacity in our resurrected abilities.

Everybody will have a supernatural ability to think. Their mind will be enhanced supernaturally, from the least to the greatest. Beloved, why not go for the fullness of what God will give the human spirit?

Everyone will have the ability to feel. I mean feel things like joy and peace. Our capacities will be different. We will have the ability to communicate—just like some can communicate better in this age—some can think, write, and sing and some can play instruments better.

Some will be able to do it better in the age to come. I believe it will be in response to our obedience, not just the gifts that are given being the end of the story.

Here are some more of our supernatural abilities in our resurrected bodies: our strength, our ability to travel, the way we interact in the material realm and physical beauty.

All the saints will have a profound physical beauty—from countenance, supernatural coloring, light, and fragrance, and garments. Some will have more than others, just like the angels do. Everyone will have profound beauty but some will manifest the beauty of the Lord more than others.

Reward #2

The second reward is our intimacy with Jesus. There will be varying measures of revelation.

God will write His Name upon us. Jesus will write His Name on us. When God writes His Name on us, God writes His Name on the mind and this gives us supernatural understanding of God forever.

This operates in us in part now. In Revelation 3:12 (paraphrased) He says, “I will write my Name.” They will have a supernatural ability to understand God and His thoughts. When He writes it on the heart, we will be able to feel what God feels in differing capacities and varying degrees.

We want to feel how He feels about us. He writes His Name on our heart. He will do this to every believer. They will have this to some degree. When God writes His Name upon our emotions, on our heart, we will feel what He feels about us and we will feel what He feels about righteousness and His kingdom. There is no greater pleasure than when God reveals God to the human spirit. I believe, even in the age to come, when God reveals God to our heart and our mind, we will be even more exhilarated with pleasure — like we are now.

Reward #3

We will have strategic work assignments. Some people associate the word work with pain and frustration. In Genesis 2:15, God gave Adam work without any toil or frustration. Sin is what brought toil and frustration to work. The work itself is a source of joy. The sense of accomplishment with God’s pleasure and the knowledge that we are working with Him to increase and improve the flow of His kingdom through the universe in the sphere He has given us brings us joy.

We have that pleasure right now when we are doing God’s work — we feel the sense of accomplishment. In the age to come this will be very, very powerful. We will have a work assignment —every one of us —that we will have joy and satisfaction in.

Work is very important.

The guy thinks, “Boy, I would like to have time off.”

If you had five years off without meaningful work you would be so bored. There are all kinds of studies on what happens when people do not have meaningful work. It has a very negative emotional affect. The opposite is also true. To have a sense of relevance and significance in what we do. Some

imagine that they just want to go to heaven and they will not care about this, “I am in the presence of God. It will not matter.” God built us with a design that longs to do that which is significant and that which is relevant and important. Again, Adam, before he sinned in Genesis 2, the work was not only an expression of partnership with God; there was a sense of accomplishment. There was a sense of joy and strength to Adam. People imagine that they will not care.

The implication is that Jesus is missing it by motivating us with work—that He did not really understand how we function. Obviously He does.

He is saying, “You really will care about this.”

Think of the honor as well as the significance of being the mayor of a city or the senator of a state or the president of a nation or of a king. If somebody offered that position to you, you could be overwhelmed and not feel qualified and so you might turn it down. The sense of it would be obviously powerful. This is what God is offering us—the ability to function with joy and strength in places of authority—to function in a way that will actually affect history as it unfolds in the age to come. We will do it in partnership with the Lord and to bless the people.

Reward #4

Heavenly praise and honor from God.

The praise and honor that we will receive from God is very powerful. Think of the word ‘affirmation’. Imagine a father or mother affirming their child or, think of two people who love each other and one of them affirming the other. It is that kind of affirmation we are talking about.

We are not just talking about, “Hey, I want to be praised by somebody in the public.”

It is far dearer and far more powerful to the heart than random praise. It is God’s esteem of our choices in the way that we loved Him and the way that we responded to Him. It is Him speaking it out. Not once but over and over and over. Not the same story told like He memorizes a paragraph and pushes a button and says it again.

He will speak with a heart full of love. Every time that He says it there will be a different way He says it. It will affect you in a different way and it will affect the people who love you in a different way when He praises and affirms you.

In 1 Peter 1:7 (paraphrased) Peter said, “. . . that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ” — the second coming of Jesus.

Your responsiveness to God in all of your obedience will result in praise. God will affirm your choices to Him, over and over. Forever He will do this. He will tell the story of your heroic devotion and love.

I do not mean your well-known devotion —maybe nobody knows about it. Maybe the guy next to you does not even believe you are genuine. He may believe you are a hypocrite. It is not about proving it to the guy next to you. It is about it being real in God’s sight.

Do not look at your life and go, “My life is such a mess. I am not doing anything.”

The Lord says, “No. I am looking for a responsiveness of your heart in humility and seeking after me.”

We do not have to have the breakthrough in all the areas of our life. We need to have the seeking heart and the intention to go after God in the ways that He has set for us. He will praise us. He affirms us. He will honor us openly. He will honor us one on one when He talks to us. He will also bring that affirmation into the public arena.

He will release glory and we will feel dimensions of His heart. We will have dimensions of partnership with Him related to this. He will give us affirmation, praise, public honor, and glory. We will experience His heart and dimensions of Him because of our responsiveness to Him.

The genuineness of our faith, it is more precious than gold. Many people will choose money any day over developing their heart in God. When they get a chance to get more money or to take the same time and connect with God in a deeper way, many believers will choose money every time. Many times it costs

money to seek God. I think of the opportunities we lose for gaining money because we are seeking God. Every time that you choose the Lord you are declaring that it is more precious than gold to you —more precious than money.

Another area is the money you invest in getting trained in God. This 1 Peter 1:7 verse I have used because I have spent so many tens of thousands of dollars on books over the years.

My sweet wife would come home and I would have this stack of books and she would say, “What meanest all this?”

I would quote this verse. I would say, “It is more precious than money.”

Sometimes that worked okay, however other times I needed a different verse to quote. It does cost money to pursue God sometimes. In direct cost, it takes money to gain insight from others and there is money that we lose because we are seeking God. I think of the amount of money collectively, I do not know what it would be.

We have about 1500 people here at the IHOP-KC Missions Base who are seeking God full time whether they are staff, students, or interns. The amount of money they are paying or the amount of money they are not making by doing something else probably collectively adds up to millions of dollars per year. I do not know what it would be. I wonder how much it is costing. I tell you, whatever it is, it is worth it. Our responsiveness to God is more precious than money.

A heart of faith means responsiveness to God. In 1 Cor. 4:5 (paraphrased) it says, “The time will come where God will reveal the counsels of the heart” — that is at the second coming—“Then each person’s affirmation or praise will come direct from God.”

The way the Jesus stated this principle is in paragraph B. He says, “I will confess your name. I will tell your story.” To confess your name does not mean just that He mentions your name like stamping your passport as you are going through customs.

“Mike Bickle — pass. Okay, I said your name. We did that one. I fulfilled my promise to you.”

That is not what it is talking about. It is talking about declaring the story of your love and the story of your journey with Him. I have been walking with the Lord just a little over thirty years. I have forgotten a lot of what I did with God, fifteen, twenty, thirty years ago. That one day, that one afternoon. Five years ago, ten years ago, thirty years ago where I chose God and I chose humility.

I chose to seek Him when I felt pride. I felt things that were opposite and I chose him. He has them recorded, every single one of them. I am glad they are recorded —same with you. Do not ever throw away a whole afternoon. I do not mean that you cannot rest or have a down time. Do not ever just throw a day away. That is a day that something can be written in the books that God can say to you when you are face to face.

He will confess our names. That is what Jesus meant when He said that He would confess your name. Not just before the Father, or before the angels, but the saints will hear it too. Others will tell the story. Just like when another person writes a biography, we are telling their version of a dedicated life.

Jesus said the same thing again in Matthew 25:21, “Well done. You were a good servant.” The word ‘good’, you could develop a lot in that.

“There was a quality to what you gave me. You were faithful as well.”

Those are all different facets of affirmation.

Heavenly Rewards Overview

These again are the heavenly rewards we will receive when we have resurrected bodies —then we will go out from the city to operate with our rewards. With the sum total of these rewards we will serve on the millennial earth partnering in the reconstruction of the earth and the ordering of God’s will. We will be establishing God’s will across the nations as we work with people for 1000 years in the first ‘day’ of the eternal kingdom —or the first day of the age to come is maybe a better way to say it.

Reward #5

Reward number five: crowns. You could also say precious stones or jewels — this is a vast subject. You will receive the crown of life. The subject of our crowns is more a subject of honor although I have no doubt that this has elements of it in terms of authority, our position of authority. Crowns can speak of a position of authority. A king has a crown that speaks of his position of authority. Then there is a gold medal they give the Olympic athlete is a crown. In the ancient world it was a wreath, it was a crown they put on his head. There are crowns that are like championship rings. I have seen professional football players with a Super Bowl ring that lights up. Or I remember meeting a pro football player who was inducted into the hall of fame. They gave him the ring for the hall of fame —the MVP awards. Crowns or honor awards are not just in athletics. There is the Grammy, the Emmy, the Man or Woman Of The Year award or the most outstanding doctor, the most outstanding citizen. It is awards that we are familiar with in this age, but the awards are in that age are in the form of crowns and jewels.

The award in the age to come is bigger based on our social reckoning in this age. In this age the guy who wins the great award puts it on the wall and it has jewels on it. It is the one they want everyone to see. That is what crowns and stones are about. There will be many expressions of that —we want to desire those rewards of honor because they will express our love and devotion to the Lord. They will express what the Lord thinks about our life. They will express even our future, issues about our future with God.

Reward #6

Roman numeral seven: the sixth reward is heavenly garments. The heavenly garments are in Revelation 19:8 (paraphrased), “And to her it was granted to be arrayed with fine linen, clean and bright...” —sometimes the word white is used when the garments are described and other times the word bright is used. The word white can be translated to bright on occasion. Meaning God gives us linen, or garments, in the age to come and they reflect our righteous acts.

Do not think of it as righteous acts like the war hero who saves lives (heroic in the social sense). These righteous acts are noteworthy and visible to all. We can have heroic obedience that nobody else ever sees. Humility is heroic in a fallen world —anytime you have it. Any time you take the last seat and you serve without any recognition and do it under His eyes as an audience of One — this

is heroic humility. When the Lord sees that He says, “I will give you clean garments and they will be bright.” There will be many colors in the full array of the garments. The gift of righteousness that every born again believer receives by faith because of what Jesus did is the foundational garment of the gift of righteousness.

Our garments are far beyond the gift or the robe of righteousness. We will have a full array of garments —garments for every occasion. As I said last night—we will not just be wearing the one white gown forever. Will there be billions of people for billions of years with only one set of garments? No. Moses revealed in Exodus 28 that the garments for the high priest and the priest in large were designed by God to be unique in beauty and glory. God designed the priestly garments for beauty, not only to beautify the priest, but also to reveal the beauty of the priest in their life. This is what our garments will be in the age to come. To show the glory of God, not just to give glory to God, it will also be the glory that God is giving believers for the way that they love Him. It is for beauty and glory —two different things.

It is not just God’s beauty and God’s glory. It is the beauty and the glory that the Lord is emphasizing that was worked in your life because of your obedience to the Lord.

Paragraph B: the white speaks of brightness.

It says in Matthew 17:2 that Jesus’ clothing, when He was transfigured at the Mount of Transfiguration, became white as light. That is the idea. God covers Himself with garments of light. God puts on garments of light. Our clothing will have a dimension of glory and light. There will be many colors and properties in our clothing and the garments will all have different degrees of the glory of God.

Elijah’s mantle had the glory of God. When the mantle touched the water, the water divided. There were the properties of the glory of God in the clothing. When Paul had the handkerchief in Acts 19:11-12 he put it on sick people and demons came out and their bodies were healed. There was the property of the glory of God in the garments. Imagine heavenly garments carrying the property of glory.

Paragraph C: there will be different degrees of brightness and color, unique design, coloring and fragrance, all depending on our response to the Lord in this age.

I have people say this through the years, “I do not care about eternal rewards. I just want the Lord.”

I want to destroy that.

The Lord says, “I have planned things for you that are the reflection of how much you desire me. You will want that reflection and reflection. You really will.”

Each person has a distinct history in God and they will receive clothing that expresses the quality of their devotion to the Lord. In Daniel 12:3 (paraphrased) it says, “...they will shine like brightness” —that is their clothing, as well as their resurrected bodies.

Matthew 13:43 says, “Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”

Reward #7

Roman numeral eight: the seventh reward is the heavenly food. We think of this and think, “Whatever. We will take what comes.” Jesus on two occasions pointed out the fact that we would be able to eat from a privileged position in the midst of the garden.

I know that the New Jerusalem is a 1500-mile city—in all three dimensions. One translation says 1380 miles. About 1500 is close enough. I am assuming there will be food growing throughout the entire garden—throughout the paradise of God. There is special privilege that is indicated here of eating of the tree in the midst, or in the center. I do not know what that means—or what the hidden manna is that we will eat. Of course, we can spiritualize it. I think we should spiritualize manna, as we are eating of Jesus now. In John 6:56 (paraphrased) Jesus said, “Eat my flesh, drink my blood.” In other words, we are to assimilate the Word of God. There is a spiritual application in this age, but in the age to come I am certain that there will be a physical as well as a

spiritual application of this. I do not know the full ramifications of this. All I know is that I am going for 100 percent of whatever it is.

Reward #9

Page eight. Reward number nine is the heavenly gold, heavenly riches and heavenly treasure. Jesus in Luke 12:21 —talking about a foolish man— said, “So is he who is not rich toward God.” Then, He gives the exhortation of verse 33, “...provide for yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heaven that does not fail.”

I have a lot of verses here. We are called by Jesus to accumulate treasure in heaven. Again, most believers do not pay much attention to it however Jesus said it quite a few times. He said, “Get treasure in heaven.”

I want treasure in heaven. I do not know how it all works. I am not convinced there is currency in heaven —there might be but I do not know. I have no firm evidence that there is currency in heaven, but treasure can be expressed in many ways —In our mansions, our dwelling places, and where they are located. How many of you know that every location of the earth is not the same when you want to buy a house. Some houses are a whole lot more expensive and have a whole lot more honor by virtue of their location. Then, there is the size and the design of the house. The glory of God will be reflected in some dwellings far beyond other dwellings, just like human glory is reflected in some houses more than other houses.

Then there is treasure in our garments. Some of our garments will have gold in them. Our crowns or our awards will have gold —the same way we think of it now, it is the trophy, the MVP award, the Emmy, the championship ring. That is the parallel in the secular world. In the age to come the Lord gives tokens of honor that are precious stones and crowns that depict our life. They are very valuable in terms of their value to us in God’s heart. If you went to an Olympic athlete and said, “Hey, can I have your gold metal?” You would not measure the gold metal if you melted it down to how many ounces it would be worth on the market. If it is three ounces, then you get a couple thousand dollars. No, the value of a gold medal is not how many ounces you can melt down. It is the love and the labor represented by the gold medal and the achieving of it.

Our treasure will be expressed in many different ways. In that age our treasure will be expressed in sentiment or just in the value of love. It is the diamond ring. It is the ring that expresses the sentiment between two people. Not just the exact amount the ring is worth, but what the ring represents between two hearts. Jesus said in Revelation 3:18, “I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich.”

Of course, that is gold we get by having a changed heart in this age. We can get that gold now. I believe there is gold that we can purchase right now by our obedience. We do not earn it in that sense. We do our part through costly investment of love and obedience and we will literally receive gold through those various expressions in the age to come —through dwellings and garments and those things.

Here is why: He says, “I want you to be rich. Not just spiritually rich. I want you rich.”

Again, most believers that I interact with do not really think much about these exhortations to be rich.

This is Jesus saying to get treasure in heaven. Jesus said (Luke 12:33; paraphrased), “Get it. Get money bags that do not wear out, that are treasure in the heavenly realm.”

I am saying, “Lord, I want to be great and I want to be rich.”

Unashamedly I want to be great and rich in God’s sight in the age to come. That is why I am willing to forgo issues in this age. I have talked to different guys over the years and I have committed myself to live in a certain simplicity financially over the years.

I have had people say, “Man, you do not care about money.”

I say in response, “It is exactly opposite. I care about money a whole lot more than you do.”

“Are you sure? It does not look like it. You have a simple car and a simple that.”

I go, “Oh no. I am just into deferred payments. I am seriously into money. Trust me. I am into gold way more than you. I am just pursuing it in a focused zeal and in an intentional way. It is just as real. It is real for me to go after it. I am really into riches. So into it that I am willing to forgo riches for seventy years so that I can get the riches that last forever. I am really into gold.”

They say, “That is kind of neat.”

I say, “I am as serious as can be. It is not a joke to me. I am serious.”

A lot of guys would do a whole lot better if they were to lay off of so much gold in this age —if they just backed away and bought the gold that will endure through the transition time. Amen.