TITLE: Are You Protecting Your Investments?

TEXT: Matthew 6:19-21; Luke12:16-21

INTRODUCTION: How protected are your investments this morning?

 Over the past few years there has been an increased awareness on the part of most people on the need to invest for ones future.. To do something that will enhance ones security in their older years...

 Most of us who are baby boomers, people now in their 60's or early 70’s have become aware that if our future is totally dependent on social security than we are most probably in big trouble when we leave the workforce and attempt to retire... Why? Over the next few years we will have the largest segment of our population approaching retirement age.

 The numbers in the work force behind us are much, much smaller in number...

 The only thing that has keep social security going in the past is that a large work force is supplying the funding for a comparatively smaller number of people who are retired....

 This is no longer true today......

 Social security was a good concept but man managed to mess it up pretty quickly....

 Anyway because of this one fact, the shakiness of S.S., there is a tremendous amount of emphasis being put on personal investment today....I.R.A., 401K, company retirement plans, investment portfolio's of so many different shapes and sizes that it makes the normal person become overwhelmed just thinking about it!

 Where are we to invest? How are we to invest? With what are we to invest with? (our good looks)

 Jesus outlined an investment plan that is the supreme of all investment plans... It is a plan that has a high yield, yet it is completely safe and secure!

 Worldly Example: higher the yield=greater the risk....Not so with Jesus’ plan! It offers the highest rate of return yet your investment is 100% safe!

The plan that Jesus has laid out before us is backed by something a lot sounder than the United States federal reserve or the F.D.I.C.....

 Jesus’ plan is backed by the G.H R. (Gods Holy Reserve).

 Let’s look at the prospectus....

 **Matt 6:19 (NIV) "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.**

**20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

**21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

 Actually, Jesus starts out by telling us about the bank, so to speak!

 **Matt 6:19 (NIV) "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.**

**20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

 First He tells us what not to invest in....

 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth!

 It's a bad investment!

 Is Jesus saying that we shouldn't try to plan ahead for this life? NO! Other Scripture speaks of saving for ones old age as being wise....

 I think the key words here are "store up"

 The phrase is: **thesaurizo {thay-sow-rid'-zo}**

heap treasure together

**1) to gather and lay up, to heap up, store up**

**1a) to accumulate riches!**

 and Earth**= Ghay=the earth as opposed to the Heavens**

 The thought is placing all or most of ones importance on this effort....heaping up treasure's on earth.

 For this to be the utmost concern of one’s life!

 Especially when in contrast with the next verse....

**20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

 The term store up doesn't imply "what you need", it implies an over abundance, a stockpiling, a hoarding, if you will.

 What Jesus is saying is: don't pile up an over abundance, don't stockpile, don't put the majority of your investment into worldly things because they are not really all that secure!!

 Don't invest where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

 The things of this world are anything but secure!

 There is no such thing as a 100% safe investment here on earth!

 Anything of this world is subject to moth and rust and decay!

 The FDIC can only protect your money if it has a government to back them.... If the economy fails so FDIC.....

 There is nothing of earthly origin that you can invest in, either your money of yourself, that you can be 100% sure will not fail you!

 Because this world is full of moths, and rust and decay!

 Jesus tells a parable about a man that stored up treasure for himself here on earth.....

**Luke 12:16 (NIV) And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop.**

**17 He thought to himself, `What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'**

**18 "Then he said, `This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.**

**19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." '**

**20 "But God said to him, `You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'**

**21 "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."**

 This is an example of a man whose emphasis is in storing up treasure for themselves here on earth...

 And the same thing happened to him that will happen to each one of us... He died! Just as we will all one day die....

 You ever heard the saying, "you can't take it with you!"

 It may not be scripture but it is true all the same!

 I don't care how much you have, how many things you own, how much wealth you may acquire in this life, when your life ends it will separate you from those things!

 And when we pass through the door of death and find ourselves standing before Almighty God, guess what?

 God is not going to be impressed with all the wealth that we may have amassed in this life and had to leave behind!

 You see, your bank account, your investment, Your home, your car, your wardrobe, the fdic are all perishable things, just as your body of flesh that you will one day leave behind you is perishable, and perishable things will not enter eternity!

 So you leave this life and come before God much like you came into the world, naked and with nothing!

(Babies born=naked & they don't have anything with them.)

 So, God may ask, "do you have an account here? Have you invested anything in the G.H.R.?

 I mean you have to have an account to enter in!

 No, I’m sorry, but I do have 1.5 million in a stock portfolio at Farmers and merchants state bank.....

 Son ( or daughter) that is no good up here! It doesn't mean anything! It has no value! It is totally worthless!

 Didn't you ever store up for yourself some treasure here in heaven?

 If you had, it would be here awaiting you, safe and sound, because treasure stored here is of eternal nature!

 It, in fact, is eternal! It is not subject to decay or rust because those things do not exist here!

 I'm sorry; if you don't have an account here you can't come in... Now depart from Me because I never knew you...

 A Scripture that comes to mind is: **What profit's it a man if he gain the whole world yet forfeit his own soul!**

 Jesus said, **store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

**21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

 Jesus says that we are to store up, to heap, to pile high our treasure in heaven...

 Just what is the treasure that we are to be storing up in heaven?

 Treasure=

 **2344 thesauros {thay-sow-ros'}**

**1) the place in which good and precious things are collected and laid up**

**1a) a casket, coffer, or other receptacle, in which valuables are kept**

**1b) a treasury**

**1c) storehouse, repository, magazine**

**2) the things laid up in a treasury, collected treasures**

 Notice that most of the emphasis in the word , thay-sow-ros, is in the place rather than in what's placed there, the contents?

 Our treasure, that which is valuable to us, becomes the place where our treasure is kept!

 Heaven, The place that God resides, in fact, becomes our treasure, that which we value the most, and whatever we place the most value on is where our heart will be!

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

 Your heart will be on what you see as the most valuable to you!

Example: experience In Buying a new car--that is where your heart is... Can't think of anything but buying that car! It consumes you until you possess it!

 For where your treasure is that is where your heart will be!

 God wants us to treasure heaven like that! That it would totally consume us until we come into possession of it!

 When we are consumed by the prospect of heaven, when that is where OUR heart is than we will start to think alone the lines of heavenly treasures!

 The treasures of heaven are what will be contained there!

 What is the one primary thing that will be contained in Heaven?

 Redeemed souls! Souls saved from eternal separation from God through salvation that has been obtained through the blood of Christ!

 So our treasure that we are storing up then becomes what the treasury contains---saved souls!

 You lead someone to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and you have stored up for yourself a heavenly treasure! Moth and rust can't destroy it, thieves can't break in and steal it because it, in itself, becomes eternal and not subject to moth or rust or decay!

 Our treasure becomes the treasury & what the treasury contains!

 thay-saw-ros...the place in which good and precious things are collected and laid up

1a) the receptacle, in which valuables are kept

 Heaven is the place, souls are the precious things that are contained there!

 Jesus said, store up for yourselves, heap up, pile up,your treasure in heaven!

 Make heaven your treasury and reaching the lost your treasure!

 For where your treasure is, that is where your heart will be!

 And if your heart is not fixed on heaven you will never see it!

 So, how do we "heap up" this heavenly treasure?

 Not all are called to be evangelist like Billy Graham!

 Not everyone has the opportunity to win countless numbers to Christ?

 Or do we have that opportunity, each and every one of us, and we just don't recognize it, or we may recognize it but just let the opportunities pass by and do nothing about it?

 All of us will have occasion to personally witness the saving Grace to God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ to someone!

 There are lost souls that God has ordained for each and every one of you here this morning to reach with good news of the Gospel!

 There is potential heavenly treasure around each of us every day just waiting to be deposited in our heavenly bank account! Each of us can come upon a gold nugget at any time!

 But there are vast fields, veins of pure Gold that are also at our disposal!

 God has tremendous investment opportunities for us in foreign markets!

(Example: foreign stock potential)

 Places where the land hasn't been mined and the treasure is abundant! It’s everywhere!

 Church, when we invest in missions, when we give so that others can go, we are investing in our own eternal treasury!

 The mission field offers us an opportunity to heap up, to pile up, our heavenly treasure!

 When we take our monthly missions offering in this Church it is giving us an opportunity to store up for OURSELVES treasure in heaven!

 When we have a missionary come to our Church who is preparing to go someplace in our world that we, personally, will never be able to go, it is an opportunity for us to invest in their work and increase our store of Heavenly treasure!

 When we invest, whether it be ourselves, our time, our efforts or our money in missions, we are increasing our store of treasure in heaven...And where our treasure is stored is where our heart will be! The more we invest, the more return on our investment we will receive!

 Our investment is not of this earth where moth and rust destroy and where thieves can break in and steal, but we are investing in something that is truly secure and we know will be there when we are ready to claim it.

 Where is your treasure stored this morning? Where is your heart?

 Do you have a heart, a burden, for the lost, those you know and those you may never know?

 If you have that burden, how much is it worth to you to reach them with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ!

 Are you storing up for yourselves treasure in Heaven where neither moth or rust destroy and where thieves cannot break in and steal, but where what you invest is truly safe and guaranteed to pay eternal dividends?

 To invest for our security in our old age will require

us to sacrifice now in order to have that security!

 And if we are thinking ahead we will probably be willing to make the sacrifices necessary to obtain that security....

 To invest in our heavenly store of treasure, our "eternal security", if you will, will also require sacrifice in this life!

 The question is, Are we willing to make that sacrifice?

 Are we willing to make the sacrifices necessary to be storing up for ourselves Heavenly treasures?

 Besides all the personal, one on one, opportunities we may have this coming year, we will also have at least 12 other opportunities to invest in our store of treasure in Heaven....

 With each Missions offering that we take comes an opportunity for investment!

 Over the next two weeks we will have opportunity to invest in Heavenly treasure… This morning with the special offering for Margaron’s Christmas party for inner city youth in Stockton Calif, And the following week for our regular missions offering.

 How much are we willing to invest in our heavenly accounts?