

6 TREASURES IN HEAVEN

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY THE FOLLOWING:

- *Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled*
 - *The Handbook for a Carefree Life*
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LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED

Scripture makes countless references to the treasures awaiting believers in heaven, the likes of which we cannot imagine. Only by leaving behind the transitory things of this world can we take hold of our inheritance in Christ. He is not calling us to a life of reckless and irresponsible abandon, but to a life of peace, free from attachment to wealth and material prosperity, a life of fellowship with God, Creator of the universe.

God came to the world in human form—as Jesus Christ. He taught His disciples and followers how to pray and also how to live a righteous life, to live as He lived—by the strength of the Father. He died for the sins of everyone in the world, including us, and rose again to ascend to be with His Father. Would it not stand to reason that He knows what He is talking about? He not only taught us about eternal life and treasures in heaven, He demonstrated by His miraculous resurrection and ascension to heaven that these things do exist and we will experience them someday. The truth is before us, but it is up to us to believe it, to give our lives to Christ and repent of our greedy, envious, worrisome attachment to the values of a fallen world.

THE HANDBOOK FOR A CAREFREE LIFE

THE GOD WHO PROVIDES

If we need persuasion, Scripture is full of it. When we fear our detachment from the world will leave us vulnerable to the whims of others, we can read pleas like David's: "Arise, O Lord, let not man triumph; let the nations be judged in your presence" (Psalm 9:19). Such pleas do not fall on deaf ears. The Lord reassures us that we are of utmost importance to Him, and He will always take care of our most pressing needs:

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." (Matthew 10:29–31)

David gives an encouraging account of God's faithfulness to Joseph and the nation of Israel, blessing them in abundance with great wealth and smiting their enemies (Psalm 105:10–22). Since God never changes and always keeps His promises, what makes us think He is unwilling to do the same for us? We have only to ask, for He tells us: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name" (John 15:16).

We have the opportunity to worship a God who is immovable, whose will is just, good, and permanent. David praised Him thusly: "You who laid the foundations of the earth, so it should not be moved forever" (Psalm 104:5). We will have times of desperation, but He hears our cries, answer our prayers, and never deprives us:

He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes, with the princes of their people. He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children. Praise the Lord. (Psalm 113:7–9)

THE GOD WHO EMBOLDENS

Not only do we have provision in the Lord, we have power and authority. We not only survive, we thrive as we seek His will in our lives: "Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be

shaken but endures forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore” (Psalm 125:1–2). See Psalm 128 for other encouraging thoughts about the believer’s life.

THE GOD WHO GUIDES US THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

The Lord tells us through Isaiah: “I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland” (Isaiah 43:19). The world expects us to find our way through life on a road paved with our own riches. If we fail, it is assumed we did not try hard enough, and we receive no sympathy. God, on the other hand, asks that we simply trust Him. He will guide us toward a greater destination than wealth could ever lead us to. In Him, we have more than the world ever had, for even if we fail, He never forsakes or abandons us. The materialist feels completely alone at the loss of wealth. The believer, however, feels he has lost nothing.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Please complete the following statements in Part A. Then Answer the questions in Part B. You may write in your book or on separate paper. After you complete this assignment you may compare your answers with the correct answers provided in the section titled “To Help You Learn—Answers” in the back of this book. Completing this part of Lesson 6 will help you remember the important truths of this lesson.

A. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

1. Only by leaving behind the transitory things of this world can we begin to take hold of our _____ in Christ.
2. Jesus Christ died for the _____ of everyone in the world, including us.
3. The Lord will always take care of our most _____ needs.
4. God never changes and always does what He _____.
5. Even if we fail, God will never _____ or _____ us.

B. ANSWER BRIEFLY

1. How do we characterize the life the Lord calls us to?

2. Jesus Christ walked the earth and knows our worldly struggles firsthand. What impact should this have on our lives? _____

3. In times of trouble, what must we do to receive the Lord’s help? _____

THE COUNTERFEIT WEALTH

4. In addition to His provision, what else does God give to those who trust in Him? _____

5. Scripture teaches us God is a steady guide through the wilderness. Are you going through any wilderness experiences for which you could use His guidance?
