

Fresh Fire Ministries
The Expository Teaching Ministry of Jay Duane Driver

“Stuff, Stuff, and More Stuff”

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21 (NKJV)

The United States Gross National Product (GNP) currently stands at approximately 17 trillion dollars and counting as we speak. This number in part is indicative of the level of economic activity in the U.S. over a number of various categories. Contained within this number is the cost of goods and services produced and consumed on an ongoing basis. Much of the total amount that is produced, bought, and sold consists of phones, gadgets, technological devices, and other digital products that have become such a large part of our global economy. These items can easily be branded as “stuff”, for the lack of a better term. They are things that we want, as opposed to things that we need. Many are purchased for social status, and even more just for the allure of ownership. Whatever the case, these things are temporal, subject to decay, and should not be placed in high priority relative to how we live our lives. Because they have no eternal utility or value, therefore we should not treasure them. **“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.” Matthew 6:19 (NKJV)**

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount that contains our devotional passage, is not suggesting that we not enjoy earthly things or possess them as a part of living in this world system. His focus is more on the priority that we place on them. How important they become to us, and perhaps more importantly what we are willing to do or sacrifice in order to get, and ultimately keep the stuff that the world tells us we should have. Companies and multi-national corporations, design million dollar marketing campaigns that are targeted to persuade us to purchase stuff that we don't need nor can we afford. There is always a new generation of stuff, gadgets, toys, devices, and convenience items waiting to be marketed and sold. And even more stuff waits in the research and development department of these same companies just waiting to be launched. They create the allure and the desire, and we produce the dollars, which in turn produces their profits. On an even sadder note, in some cases, stuff and things is often used as indicators of our relationship with God. As bizarre as that may seem, that is exactly where we are in this postmodern society of the 21st century.

What we treasure and prioritize is a matter of our heart. The heart, not the physical one, but the innermost part of who we are as individuals is the seat of our will, affections, thoughts, and actions. **“As in water face reflects face. So a man's heart reveals the man.” Proverbs 27:19 (NKJV)** Whatever it is that you desire and treasure the most that is where we will find your heart. Here's the picture. Let's say that you live in New York City. But everything that you own, your assets, your investments, and your stuff is in Los Angeles. Even though you love New York City, the sights, the signs, the sounds, the hustle and bustle, the culture, the arts, theater, and entertainment, guess where your heart is? You got it. Los Angeles. And as long as your heart is there, it will never be where God wants and desires it to be. It is out of place, and as a result it is outside of His priority. Our treasure and our heart are intimately and intricately melded together in unison and a harmony of agreement concerning our focus, and ultimately our faith. So what we treasure the most is a matter of the heart, and what we allow to consume our heart is a matter of our affection for the things that we desire the most.