

Are You Sure Your Heart is in the Right Place?

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **illus.:** Beth saw billboard that said, “Are you sure your heart is in the right place?”
 - **possibilities:** God, heaven, world, wealth (love money), sin (love sin)
 - **e.g., Simon the Sorcerer:** offered apostles for power to give people miraculous power, Peter said, “Your heart is not right with God” – heart not in the right place
- **this lesson:** Are You Sure Your Heart is in the Right Place?
 - **illus. song #263:** Is Thy Heart Right With God?

➤ Where your treasure is, there your heart is also!

- **Matt. 6:19-21** Jesus, store up treasure in heaven rather than on earth – where treasure is, heart is

➤ - How do we store up treasure in heaven?

- **Matt. 6:22-23** keep your eye clear – shun evil, stay in priorities, set mind on godly things
 - **Phil. 4:8** think on these things: true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, good repute, excellent, etc.

➤ - Matt. 6:24 serve God rather than wealth

- **illus.:** use wealth v. serve wealth – use money v. worship money

➤ - Matt. 6:33 seek first God’s kingdom and His righteousness, worldly things given to you

- priorities

➤ - Result of storing up treasure in heaven:

- **Matt. 6:25, 34** don’t worry

➤ - Matt. 7:13-14 find eternal life (vs. 14) – eternal life

➤ - Matt. 7:21-23 enter heaven (vs. 21) – eternal life

➤ - Matt. 7:24-25 your house will stand – eternal life

➤ - How do you know whether you’re storing up treasure in heaven, and have eternal life?

- **Matt. 12:33-37** by your fruit – justified by your words, condemned by your words

- **2 Cor. 13:5** test yourselves, whether you are obedient in all things – next point

- **illus.:** Ja. 1:22-27 be doers of the word, not just hearers

- **vs. 26** test self: if not control tongue, know religion is worthless

- **vs. 27** test self: pure and undefiled religion, visit orphans and widows in their distress

➤ - Are you sure your heart is in the right place (heaven, treasure)?

- Where is your treasure? Where is your heart?

- **Matt. 22:37** Your heart is in the right place, storing up treasure in heaven, because. . . – gospels
 - **Matt. 22:37** you love God with all your “heart” - put Him first in everything
 - illus.: **Brittany Emerson**, hospital, work every 3rd Sunday, studied with Jeremy (husband) quite
 - you have made the same commitment

- - **Lk. 8:11-12, 15** you keep the word in your “heart”
 - **Ps. 119:11** treasure God’s word in your heart, so not sin
 - **Heb. 10:16** God’s law in on your heart, as a Christian
 - **Rom. 1:16** gospel, power of God to salvation
 - **1 Th. 2:13** word performs its work in those who believe
 - **Matt. 13:15** you don’t let your heart become dull
 - **Heb. 5:11-14** not dull of hearing, having trained your senses to discern good and evil
 - **Rom. 6:17** you obey God from your heart

- - **Mk. 7:6-9** you walk the walk, not just talk the talk, “heart” close to God
 - illus.: Jews, honoring God with their speech (lips), their actions proved otherwise
 - actions speak louder than words
 - illus.: college, director, not want you to tell us how good you are, but show us
 - illus.: people who are always telling others how busy they are: preachers, training program

- - **Matt. 15:18-20** you keep yourself pure, by keeping a pure “heart” – pure actions because pure heart
 - **1 Pet. 1:15** be holy in all behavior
 - illus. song #150: Purer In Heart, O God

- - **Lk. 18:1-5** you pray all the time, you don’t lose “heart”
 - **1 Th. 5:16-17** rejoice always, pray without ceasing
 - prayerful thoughts all day: seeking, asking, knocking – thanks
 - **Ja. 5:16** effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much

- - **Matt. 24:44-48** you’re ready for the Lord’s return, because your “heart” in not evil
 - illus.: parable of the 10 virgins – ready for the Lord’s return
 - illus.: parable of the talents – working till the Lord returns

- - review: Your heart is in the right place!

- **Summary / Inv.**
 - Are you sure your heart is in the right place? – test yourself by examining your actions

 - inv.: if your heart isn’t in the right place. . . if you’re not sure. . .
 - illus. song #263: Is Thy Heart Right With God?