



DEFEATING WORRY—SERVING GOD ALONE

DECLUTTERING OUR MINDS OF THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD



I. Serving God alone purifies, establishes and clarifies our priorities regarding the reality of God and heaven, 6:19-23.

- (Matthew 6:19–24 LSB) **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 neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 **for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also**. 22 The eye is the lamp of the body; **so then if your eye is clear**, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! 24 **No one can serve two masters**, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

- A. Serving God alone purifies our priorities and transforms our lifestyle so that we do not store up treasures for ourselves on earth but in heaven.
- B. Serving God alone declutters our spiritual eye giving us clarity and filling us with light, 6:22-23.

6:22 clear... ἀπλοῦς [haplous] ... simple, single, sincere, sound; whole, good, fulfilling its function.

- C. Submitting to God (*servicing God alone*) cleanses the hands and purifies the hearts of the double-minded.

- (James 4:7–8 LSB) **Be subject therefore to God**. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 **Draw near to God** and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, **and purify your hearts, you double-minded**.

EXCURSUS: HOW DO WE STORE UP TREASURES FOR OURSELVES IN HEAVEN? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS: Storing up for ourselves treasures in heaven is a “true reward” that yields a blessing now on earth and later in heaven because it always involves the work of the Holy Spirit in the inner person.

- (Proverbs 11:18 LSB) The wicked earns deceptive wages, **But he who sows righteousness gets a true reward**.

- (2 Corinthians 4:16–18 LSB) Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet **our inner man is being renewed day by day**. 17 For our momentary, light affliction is **working out for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison**, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, **but the things which are not seen are eternal**.

01. We store up treasures in heaven when we give “in secret” to the poor.

- (Matthew 6:2–4 LSB) Therefore, when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you, **they have their reward in full**. 3 But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving will be in secret; **and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you**.
- (*We see the same principle of serving God “in secret” concerning prayer and fasting in Matthew 6:5-6 and 6:16-18.*)

02. We store up treasures in heaven when we live in humility before the Lord.

- (Proverbs 22:4 LSB) **The reward of humility—the fear of Yahweh**—Is riches, glory, and life.

03. We store up treasures in heaven when we are hated and excluded for the sake of the Son of Man.

- (Luke 6:22–23a LSB) Blessed are you when men **hate** you, and **exclude** you, and **insult** you, and **scorn your name as evil**, for the sake of the Son of Man. 23 Be glad in that day and leap for joy, **for behold, your reward is great in heaven**.

04. We store up treasures in heaven when we obey the Lord in our greatest area of need.

- (Matthew 19:20–21 LSB) The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept; **what am I still lacking?**” 21 Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, **and you will have treasure in heaven**; and come, follow Me.”

–END EXCURSUS–

D. Storing up for ourselves treasures in heaven reveals the genuine nature of our faith—who we are and in what we trust.

- (1 Peter 1:6–7 ESV) In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 **so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

E. Storing up for ourselves treasures in heaven directs our heart (and mind) away from the things of earth.

- (Colossians 3:2 LSB) Set your mind **on** the things above, **not on** the things that are on earth.

F. Storing up for ourselves treasures in heaven directs our heart to our real life in God.

- (Colossians 3:3–4 NLT) For you died to this life, **and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.** 4 **And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.**

2. Serving God alone keeps us from serving idols—idols being something less and/or something other than God, 6:24.

- (Matthew 6:24 ESV) **No one can serve two masters**, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and money.**

A. No one can serve two masters.

B. No one can serve God and _____
(fill in the blank).

We could rightly define idol worship as serving anything other than God alone.

C. We are all slaves to something.

- (Romans 6:16 LSB) Do you not know that when you go on presenting yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, **you are slaves of the one whom you obey**, either of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?
- (Galatians 4:8 LSB) However at that time, when you did not know God, **you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods.**

- (Titus 1:1a LSB) Paul, **a slave of God** and an apostle of Jesus Christ.
- (James 1:1a LSB) **James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- (2 Peter 1:1 LSB)1 **Simeon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ.**
- (Jude 1 LSB) **Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ.**

D. If storing up wealth is your priority, then wealth is your master and god.

E. If wealth is your master, then wealth is what you love and are devoted to and the love of the Father is not in you.

- (1 John 2:15–17 LSB) Do not love the world nor the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 **And the world is passing away, and also its lusts, but the one who does the will of God abides forever.**

3. Serving God alone is how we defeat worry, 6:25–32.

- (Matthew 6:25–32 LSB) For this reason I say to you, **do not be worried** about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? 27 And who of you **by being worried** can add a single cubit to his life span? 28 And **why are you worried** about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, 29 yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? **You of little faith!** 31 **Do not worry** then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ 32 **For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek;** for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

When we serve God alone ...

- A. We do not worry about what we eat or drink.
- B. We do not worry about what we wear.
- C. We do not worry about the things the unsaved worry about.
- D. We know our Father knows what we need and we know that he will provide for us.

4. Serving God alone we seek his kingdom and his righteousness first and only, 6:33-34.

- (Matthew 6:33-34 LSB) **But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness**, and all these things will be added to you. 34 **So do not worry about tomorrow**; for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

- (Colossians 3:2 LSB) **Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.**
- (Matthew 16:23 ESV) But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. **For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.**"

- A. To serve God alone we must first and foremost seek his kingdom and his righteousness.
- B. This refines and tempers our faith and we grow in our understanding of his very personal involvement in our lives as he adds to our lives absolutely everything we need.
- C. Now we defeat worry and trust him no matter what the future holds.

WORRY

- A basic definition for worry is being overly concerned about tomorrow.
- A biblical definition for worry is not trusting God for tomorrow.
- Worry is being overly concerned that at some later time, such as tomorrow, something **may happen** that I do not want to happen.
- Worry is being overly concerned that at some later time, such as tomorrow, something **may not happen** that I want to happen.

Trusting in God's Sovereign Care

- God's sovereignty is God's wise, supreme, unlimited power and authority by which he rules over all that he has created.
- God's providence is the shepherding, protective care of God over all he has created; the foreseeing care and guidance of God over the destiny of all of his creation in heaven and on earth.
- The nature of God in his sovereignty and providence is so far beyond our ability to conceive that we are at a loss to come up with a likeness or comparison. It is essential that we rely on what he clearly reveals about himself in Scripture.
 - (Isaiah 40:18 LSB) **To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him?**
 - (Job 42:1-2 LSB) Then Job answered Yahweh and said, 2 **"I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted."**
 - (Isaiah 45:5-7 ESV) I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, 6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. 7 **I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who does all these things.**