

# to encourage

By B.J. Stagner

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**“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”**

*Matthew 6:19-21*

In the day we live in, focusing on the eternal is nearly an impossible task. Between daily responsibilities of home and work coupled with the continuing need to maintain a happiness within a given workflow environment. The ‘hustle and bustle’\* attitude which is seemingly taught by the world’s business leaders trickles downward into the lives of staff and employees who carry such weight into the home distracting them from the primary ministry in their life, the family.

At the same time, there is another group of people who walk among the population, diligent in life, busy about the task and duties at hand, while maintaining an eternal view and outlook in all they do. Their focus is not upon the trials and trivialities of the daily struggle, but it is on a much better, stronger, longer lasting element of which the human eye cannot see without the lens of faith. These are they who labour within the crowd of the stressful and under appreciated souls, who understand their cause is for a greater purpose and in achieving goals extending beyond this realm and into the next. This is the act of laying up treasure **“where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt.”**

As we grow older we tend to look back as to how our life was spent,

how we utilised the time given by God in this life. As we all work toward a nearing of the end of our life, the question hovers in our mind how to finish well and leaving a legacy of blessing to our family and how we may impact the generations to come. Others are just starting out in life, making their first steps toward dreams and plans, some of which will never take place and others will come to fruition. Whether one is at the end or beginning of life, we all have the challenge to accept or reject, to finish strong and finish well. There are a few things we can implement in order to at least accomplish one of these things; first is to work with all your heart, for God and not for men. We are hindered greatly in this life when we remain in the bondage of man’s ideologies thus forsaking Who matters the most, God. If we strive to live and please God, the rest will take care of itself. People will, in a sense, get in or get out of our life if and when we set the Lord in our crosshairs, remaining focusing on His opinion above and beyond anyone else. Jesus Christ is our greatest example, **“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”** (Luke 2:52). God first everything and everyone else next.

Secondly, lay out plans but hold to them in a light manner. The reality is, we have no idea what the Lord has in store for any of us. If someone would have asked me ten years ago if I saw myself living in South Wales, UK, the pastor of two churches, I would have laughed them to scorn. It was set in my heart that I was to live the rest of my life in Tennessee and then be buried on my own property. Well, those plans

went out the window when the Lord quietly knocked on my heart calling me to the United Kingdom. What would have happened if I held to *my* plans with an iron fist? I would have been out of the will of God and quite possibly injured the ministry, my family and those around me.

Lastly, consider now the legacy you will leave and life you will lay up. Temporary focus is fine and important, however, thinking on the eternal level, asking oneself what effect will my actions, both in words and deeds have in eternity, is vital in finishing strong and finishing well.

When we are young, it is easy to think “I will always have time to do this or do that”. The truth is, we are never too young to start working on a lasting legacy. The decisions we make today will affect the legacy we leave behind. Whether you are a young business man who has fallen into the snare of what the world views as success both in career and family life, or a young lady recently graduated with no idea of what lies ahead. Today is the day to make the decision, in light of this one superior truth: God owns it all. We are to choose to live our life in this world while investing our wealth in the next.

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