

THE TREASURE OF THE HEART

Subject Block: The Plan of God

Compiled by David Collins

www.equippers.co.nz

Matthew 12:35 *A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things.*

Understanding and applying the truth in this verse determines the extent to which we realize the plan of God for our lives.

The Plan of God for our lives is not a regimented schedule of dates, people, events, etc. It is a relationship with God and his Word. The extent to which we live in a place of love, honour, grace, faith, obedience, vision and fear toward God and his Word; our lives attain a harmony with God's revealed glorious plan for mankind.

We are a repository, a storehouse of treasure. We have an enormous capacity to hold a multitude of facts, knowledge, philosophies, ideas, images, melodies, truths and falsehoods, experiences, etc

In Jesus' statement there is a privilege and a product. Depending on how we exercise the privilege (something for which we have the sovereignty) the product is determined (a matter of principal or law).

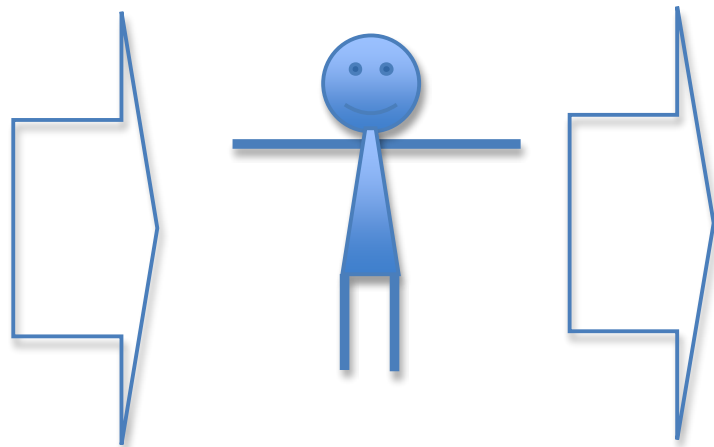
The privilege is to *meditate on these things – whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report* (Philippians 4:8).

Isaiah 26:1 – 3 The exercise of the privilege as a “gate keeper”

2 Corinthians 10:4 – 6 The exercise of the privilege as a “soldier”

Matthew 12:35 Good = excellent, distinguished, upright, honourable. A good man will end up with good things in his treasury. The product inevitably flows from the treasure.

Life experiences
Teaching (doctrine)
Dreams / Visions
Prophecies
Judgements of others
Models
Opinions
Books
Media
Thought life



These become like a picture album from which we live.

Genesis 30:25-43 Jacob and the speckled flock

They produced what they saw – the vision that Jacob set before them, changed even the course of nature!

For these goats, it was as if Jacob was showing them photos of the family before they were even born or conceived! This is a story about the amazing power of vision.

The best things that will take place in your life now and in the years to come are not the things you resolve and strive to do, but they are the things that you consciously hold as a vision and then allow the power of vision have it's effect.

The plan of God – his glorious future for the church must take root in our hearts, and in the hearts of the people we serve.

Colossians 1:24 – 29 *warning and teaching in all wisdom* – the privilege of forming treasure in the life of people.

Fifty years ago a plastic surgeon, Dr Maxwell Maltz, observed the changes that occurred in the attitude and success of his patients following successful reconstruction or cosmetic plastic surgery.

- However, he noted that with a number of his patients no change whatsoever seemed to occur, whilst others undergoing the exact same procedure were completely transformed.

- After many careful case studies, Dr Maltz concluded that it was not the image that was reflected in a mirror of a person's exterior features that determined their future attitude and success; rather it was the picture or image that a person held of themselves internally - in their heart and mind - that made them who they were, and determined who they would be.
- As a result of this discovery Dr Maltz resigned his practice as a plastic surgeon in order to qualify as a psychologist; and then pursued that practice assured that he would be able to help many more people transform their lives and attain their goals by way of internal change.
- In his book written 50 years ago, Dr Maltz illustrated the human creation as a guided missile. To reach its goal a missile is first programmed with an "image" of its target, and then continually adjusts its course, avoiding obstacles and correcting its route if knocked off course, with reference to the "image" it holds inside. The missile is literally "seeking" until its target is reached.

The Bible continually speaks of us as 'seekers' ... we are to seek God (Isaiah 55:6), seek his kingdom (Matthew 6:33), seek those things that are above (Colossians 3:1), and so on. David wrote "One thing I have desired ... that will I seek after" (Psalm 27:4) , and Paul declared "One thing I do ... I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God" (Philippians 3:13).

- It seems that we have been created somewhat like the guided missile, with an ability to seek a thing.
- Like the guided missile, our success, the targets we hit, will be determined by the pictures and images we program into our heart and mind. The treasure of our heart.
- We will pursue the things we hold true and dear on the inside, avoiding obstacles and correcting our route if knocked off course.

After Abraham had separated from Lot, God said to him "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are . . . for all the land you see I give to you and your descendants (Genesis 13:14 – 15)

- God gave him what he could see

- First he had to separate from Lot – a relative whose men strove with Abraham’s men – we live in an image-rich world, don’t let negative images strive with your vision. Separate! Discern between the good and the bad and the unhelpful. Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.* Keep your photo album free from confusing images.
- See things that will be a legacy! *Your descendants forever*. Don’t just see the small stuff of your own comfort and pleasure. See greatness!

But we all with open face beholding . . . are changed.

Your picture gallery

- Tragically, many people (even as believers) carry the pictures formed in them by the harsh words spoken to them during childhood
- *every tongue that rises against you in judgement you shall condemn – this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their righteousness is of me* (Isaiah 54:17)
- You are who the righteousness of God has made you to be – that’s the truth. You are not the failure, the pauper, the pathetic person someone said you were – that’s a lie!

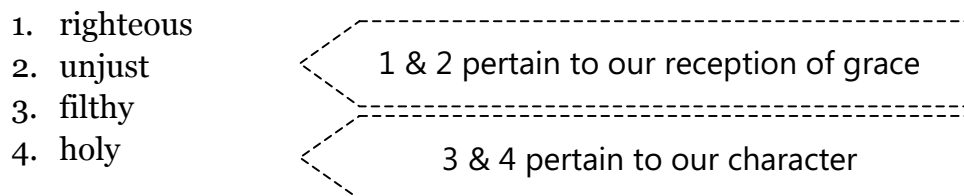
As ministers of the Word we have the awesome responsibility of painting pictures of God’s glorious plan for his people and for the planet through our the doctrine we teach, and by the way we treat the people of God (e.g. with honour, grace and faith).

The Desinty of Man

Revelation 22:11 “He who is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he who is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he who is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he who is holy, let him be holy still.”

This is a statement about futures. And it also dramatically refers to the truth that there is a time when change is no longer possible – our state of character is sealed eternally (this word “still” is elsewhere rendered “hereafter”).

Each of these words points to an eternal future . . .



1. The First Eternal State – Righteous

The wonder of the cross of Jesus is that an exchange takes place by which a person becomes **righteous**. Jesus takes the death we deserve and gives us the eternal life that only he, as a sinless man, can offer. Jesus takes on himself our unrighteousness (sin), and gives us his righteousness as a gift.

- Because it is our sin (unrighteousness) that separates us from God, receiving this gift of righteousness brings us into a relationship with God and extends to us a welcome into an eternal future with God in his presence.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- Romans 3 & 4 speak of the righteousness of faith. Abraham’s faith counted as righteousness.
- Righteousness that exceeds the righteousness of the cribes and Pharisees.

- We can be righteous, in terms of the righteousness that saves us, by no other means “all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags” Isaiah 64:6
- The gift of righteousness reconciles us to God eternally – it ‘s an eternal state.

2. The Second Eternal State – Unjust

Unjust is also an eternal state. It is the state of an unrepentant sinner; one who have not received justification from God in his grace, by faith.

Before a we come to Christ and receive the free gift that makes a sinner righteous before God, we seek to justify our sin, failure, unrighteousness and unbelief.

- We are full of reasonings, excuses and self-justification. But we cannot justify ourselves. We may be good people, doing good deeds. We may be self-sacrificial and exceedingly loving as a human being, however, none of this justifies us, and we are yet **unjust**.
- Only a person whom Jesus has justified can claim to be just and claim a heavenly eternal future.
- Romans 4:25 “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

3. The Third Eternal State – Filthy

Revelation 22:11 shows us that not only is an unjust state eternal, but a filthy character is also locked in eternally.

The **filthy** person is so because of their imagination! Their meditation on sin and wickedness creates for them a life of sin and wickedness.

- The inner pictures of a corrupt self are the pictures out of which the person lives. Not only is this person unjust, they are unholy. Unless they change through the power of the cross to cleanse, forgive and justify their eternal future is dreadful.

- Romans 1:28 - 32 “Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.”

4. The Fourth Eternal State - Holy

The **holy** person is so because although they knew they were made righteous by the blood of Jesus, they had a vision for more. Faith caused them to see themselves fully participating in the Bible's most incredible promises.

The eternal state is more than that of the righteous – it's eternity with promises!

- The picture was so wonderful, the possibilities so amazing, that things of sin and self were simply left in the dust as this person pressed into the spirit realm of the promises of God.
- Of the four, only this one realised their true potential and lived in their true destiny in the great plan of God. They loved God so wholly that they became like him – holy. Theirs is a fantastic future! They inherit the Kingdom.
- 2 Peter 1:8 – 11 “For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

Matthew 19:16 – 30

The young man was:

- Saved (in terms of the law – righteous)
- Blessed (result of covenant promises) ... rich, young & a ruler (*prominent & influential*)
- Yet he was aware of his need for more

Yet he walked away sorrowful because he was not able to do the most exiting thing in the world ... live with complete trust in Jesus Christ.

Note the word ‘perfect’ in Jesus conversation with the rich young ruler. It simply means ‘full and complete’. In other words Jesus was saying *I see all the good things of which your life consists but there’s something else you’ve been made for that’s missing ... add this one thing and you’ll be complete.*

Go, sell what you have and give it to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven, and come follow me.

Jesus turned this into a teaching moment for his disciples, and for us (v 23 – 29):

- The thrust of Jesus' teaching is about trusting him and living a completely laid down life (leave and left).
- In Mark’s account of this story he recorded one further statement of Jesus (Mark 10:25) “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God”.
- And we see here promises for those who literally lay down possessions and leave loved ones to fulfil God given purpose and mission.

How a person can determine their future:

1. To inherit eternal life / life after death in the presence of God
= Receive by faith Jesus Christ as personal Saviour ... his forgiveness and imputed righteousness.
2. To inherit the Kingdom of God / rule and reign with Christ
= be given wholly and holy for Christ ... live obediently with overcoming faith.