

Intro.

- A. Last week I read of a Christian who literally kept a daily book account with the Lord. (Bill Pratt wrote, B-Digest)
1. In 1 column he noted **everything** he did for the Lord; in another, **everything** the Lord did for him.
 - a. went to worship, read Bible, prayer of thanksgiving, invited 1 to church, helped widow, sent card, etc
 - b. encouragement from a friend, an answered prayer, recovered illness, extra blessing, etc.
 2. After few weeks, *It's no use. I can never get a positive balance. I am hopelessly in debt.*
 3. It's a fact: We are debtors to God, the elders, one another,...even **ourselves**.
- B. This hour, I want us to consider what we owe ourselves!

Discuss.**I. LOVE YOURSELF.**

- A. This is the basis of learning how to treat others in a fair & equitable way.
1. **Jam 2:8** - *If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well;* (see **Lev. 19:18**)
 2. **Eph. 5:28** - *For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.*
- B. It is a very natural thing to love yourself.
1. **Eph. 5:33** - *Nevertheless let each of you in particular so love his own wife as himself.*
 2. Love your neighbor as yourself, **Mt. 22:39**
- C. Even as the Corinthians were told, we need to *examine ourself*... (c. **2 Cor. 13:5**)
1. Hard to love an unseen God, & not love His creation **1 Jn. 4:20** (or ourself, c. **1 Cor. 3:16-17**)
 2. Remember, you have been made in the very image of God, **Gn. 1:27**

II. LAY UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURE IN HEAVEN.

w/o works?)

- A. **Mt. 6:20** - Treasures in heaven become *OUR RESPONSIBILITY!* (Does this sound like “faith only” &
- B. How can one build this sort of retirement account?
1. **Vs. 24** – it begins with love & loyalty to Almighty God --- He is my Lord, & is given 1st place, **vs 33**
 2. In **Heb. 10:34** I read of *joyfully accept[ing] the plundering of your possessions, anticipating a superior and everlasting habitation in heaven.*
- C. Preparation is an important part (c. **Mt. 25:29**) of being a wise steward of things entrusted to us that we really do not possess, but make use of for a while. **1 Tim. 4:13-16**
1. Saving ourselves & others we may lead to Christ as we read & obey the Bible = treasure in heaven, \\\
 2. Need to sow to the Spirit to reap Sp. treasures in heaven **Gal. 6:1-10**
 3. Pursuit of good things...pray, stay away from all forms of evil, **1 Thes. 5:15,22**
- D. Treasures include souls saved (taught & received truth obediently, & restoring the erring)
1. Rich man wanted some treasure in heaven, though he was in torment, **Lk. 16 & Lk. 15:7;** **3 Jn. 4;**
 2. There is no greater joy that John knew than hearing that those he taught were faithfully serving Christ\\

III. FREEDOM & CONFIDENCE.

- A. Freedom from doctrines of men.
1. Study **Col. 2:20-23**
 2. Jesus released us from the kind of burdens that men lay on us that are so heavy they can't bear **Mt. 23:4**
- B. Freedom from sin -> a clear conscience. **2 Cor. 7:10-11**
1. **Psa. 103:12** *As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*
 2. **Ac. 2:38 & 22:16;** c. **10:15; Jn. 1:9**
- C. Freedom from the ways & cares of the world, **Col. 3:5** = *peace of God ruling in our hearts*
1. Time to serve God, & time for family, **1 Cor. 7:5**
 2. Some time for rest *for a while*, **Mk. 6:31**
 3. Dignity that comes from strong work ethic, **2 Thes. 3:8, Eph. 6:5-8**

Concl.

IV. SALVATION. Ac. 2:40

A. You should not be bound or handcuffed to your mother or fathers religion.

1. Jesus made it crystal clear: **Jn. 4:20-24**
2. Luke recorded Jesus' weighty words, **Lk. 14:26—33**

B. What do you owe yourself?

1. examine yourself, put yourself to the test **2 Cor. 13:5**
2. be honest with yourself about your real relationship to God, **Jas. 1:22 & Mt. 7:21**
3. Have you answered the Lord's invitation the way that you should?

Mt. 11:28-30 *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*