

Local Church Budget

Fast-moving Pilgrims

Author C.S. Lewis wrote, “Our father refreshes us on the journey with some pleasant inns, but He will not encourage us to mistake them for home.”

We can be so focused on the material blessings that God gives us that we forget whose they are and what they are for. ‘Our’ assets are not actually ours. Money, houses, investments, clothes, sports equipment, furniture, decorations, tools, and even talents are entrusted to us to be enjoyed, yes, but also to test us—to see whether we will use them for eternal interests or selfish purposes.

We are called, trained, resourced, and empowered to be fast-moving pilgrims. We have a simple but crucial mission—to help people fix their eyes on Jesus Christ. God supports and funds this mission with the talents and possessions He entrusts to us. What a privilege!

Let’s use God’s resources to encourage people to fix their eyes on Jesus. In doing so, we will also be empowered to keep our eyes on Him.

As Helen Lemmel penned, “Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.”

Appeal: It’s now time to return God’s tithe and give the Promise offerings, which we are encouraged to pre-plan and set aside as a percentage of our income this week. Let’s ask God to help us live ‘lightly’ and not be bogged down with desires for more worldly things. Let’s run the race set before us and lay off every weight that might slow us down. Thank you for your faithfulness.

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Treasures of the Heart

Remember when Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness? Do you ever feel similar temptations? Have you ever felt that society and the media lead you up to a high place and tempt you with all the riches and comforts of the world?

Sadly, we often respond to these temptations like little children, saying, “I want it, I want it, I want it now!” Many people have already stored up far more than they need, but they’re addicted to “Just a little bit more.”

Christ’s statement in Matthew 6:19 and 21 was not just a suggestion but a command: “*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth ... for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*” (NKJV). Jesus didn’t start his sentence with, “I think it would be best if you don’t ...” or, “Things might go better if you try not to ...” He said, “*DO NOT lay up for yourselves treasures on earth ...*”. And why not? Because where your treasure is, your heart will follow.

If your treasure is on earth, then so is your heart, and that’s not a good thing.

Praise God for the old hymn that says, “Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.”

Appeal: As we now return God’s tithe and give the Promise set aside as a percentage of our income, let’s ask Him to help us see the attractions and distractions of this world in the light of eternity. By God’s grace, may we turn our eyes upon Jesus and cheerfully give our treasure to the mission and ministries of His heart.