

March 23

Matthew 6:20 (NIV) [Jesus said,] **But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

Carol and I went to the city a few days ago. When we got close to the city, we were inundated with billboards promising everything from new teeth to the best loans. I usually do not pay much attention to these signs, but one caught my attention. I assume it was for a casino that lay ahead. It was a larger billboard that read in large letters: REWARDS AHEAD! As I saw that sign, I immediately thought, “Plagiarism.”

I know that was a strange thought, and it caught me a little by surprise. However, I thought to myself, “Jesus made that promise thousands of years ago.” Jesus tells us that we are to store up for ourselves treasures in heaven. In other words, He promises us that our true rewards lie ahead of us. Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before Him. This does not mean that we do not receive blessings, comfort, joy, peace, etc. now. However, the true rewards of our faith lie ahead of us. This truth allowed Paul to endure all that happened to Him. People too often want their rewards now. If I accept Jesus, what rewards do I get now? If I make these sacrifices, how do I benefit now? For some, storing up treasures in heaven is a difficult concept because we do not earn those treasures through our works but through faith. When Jesus tells us REWARDS AHEAD, He is telling us the truth. It is not an empty promise because He has gone before us and proven it true.