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Treasuring Up the Treasure; Psalm 119:11
GPBC
1.5.19

Introduction – Today’s message is really a continuation of last Sunday’s sermon. We studied Psalm 119:9-16 last week and our goal in 2020 is to meet with God in His Word on a consistent basis. The reason is that God’s grace is always found in His Word. If we constantly place our hearts in the place of grace, God will grow us in Christ. So to help achieve that goal we recommended 5 Bible reading plans and you can choose which one best suits you. We have a few copies of 3 plans in the vestibule and you can also download them at navigators.org. We gave away 20 copies of the Chronological Bible, and you can read along with me straight through the Bible, 5 chapters a day, 5 days a week at wilowens.com. You can download reading plans on your phone and you can find numerous plans online. The point is, pick a plan and let’s keep placing our hearts in and under the Word all year long. If you struggle to keep up with the reading, find a reading partner. Encourage one another. Share with one another. Do it together.

This week we’re going to dig a little deeper and unpack v11. If you recall, we discovered last week that in v9 the psalmist recognizes his need, v10 is his resolution, and v11 was his plan for keeping His heart in the Word.

We not only want to be Bible readers, we want to internalize the Bible, to store up the Bible. To treasure up the treasure. So together as a church family we are going to memorize 1 verse of Scripture every 2 weeks – 26 verses total. We’ll call these treasure verses. We are going to treasure up the treasure. Our first verse is our text for today – Psalm 119:11 – I have stored up Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Now let’s see why this is such a great verse to launch us into treasuring up the treasure.

- I. The Great Endeavor
 - a. “I have stored up” – remember this is the psalmist’s plan of how he’s going to pursue the goal of v9. “How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your word.”
 - i. Keeping his way means keeping his life. He desires to keep his life pure. To live to the glory of God. To walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor 5:7). To live by the Spirit and not according to

the flesh (Rom 8). To present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship (Rom 12). To pursue holiness (Heb 12).

- ii. Keeping our lives pure is the opposite of letting our lives go, of simply following our own desires that lead us astray, of going through life with no higher purpose which leads us to meaningless, of aiming at nothing higher than self, which leads to depression, of being enslaved by passions and sin, which lead to destruction.
- iii. The psalmist knows this is the only way to life and joy and satisfaction and meaning and purpose. A pure life is a purpose-filled life.
- iv. To do that one must guard his way, guard his life, according to God's Word. So the practical application of v9 is v11. You guard your life according to God's Word by storing up God's Word in your heart – by treasuring up the treasure!
- b. "To store" means "to keep", "to ponder", "to cherish", "to treasure", "to hold to, cling to."
 - i. It's like the Christmas story in Luke 2. When the shepherds shared the story with Mary and Joseph about the angel's visit – v19 says "Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart." The shepherds relayed words from heaven and Mary treasured them! That's exactly what the psalmist is saying about all the words we have from heaven!
- c. We store up the things that mean the most to us, the things that matter the most to us. That's why you have 10,000 pictures of your family on your phone! You're storing them up. They matter.
- d. As God's people, may we store up in our hearts, fill up our hearts, treasure up in our hearts, the Word of God.

II. The Greatest Treasure

- a. The Bible is the single greatest earthly possession we could ever have! For it, and it alone, contains everything we need to know concerning life, salvation, and the life to come. Nothing is more important, vital, and essential than these! Life means nothing if you don't know what life is for. Salvation is a vain pursuit unless you know the way of salvation. Eternity is a dark, gloomy, fearful mystery

unless you know with absolute certainty what awaits us all on the other side.

- b. The Bible is also the single greatest earthly possession we could ever have because it is the only objective source on earth where the voice of God speaks clearly and precisely and faithfully and truthfully in words.
 - i. 2 Tim 3:16 – All Scripture is breathed out by God
 - ii. The Bible is my greatest treasure!
- c. We need to ask ourselves what are we storing up in our hearts and in our lives? You know the computer is the closest man-made technology to the function of our minds, which are the gateway to our hearts. I've heard once you have something on your computer, it never really goes away even if you hit the delete button. Once you open a link on the internet, once you view a picture, once you take a picture on your phone, once you send a picture from your phone, that photo never really goes away. It's out there somewhere, in some bit, in some cloud, in some mainframe.
 - i. BTW – students, all those pics your friends see and send and that some of you see and send, they are out there, and they'll come back when you least expect or want them to.
 - ii. But the mind, which links to the heart, is just like that. Once it's in your mind, it gets stored. We are storing up all kinds of things, all the time. Good things and evil things.
- d. Are we storing up nothing but Netflix? Are we storing up nothing but selfies and snap chats? Are we storing up pornography? Are we storing up things that are not necessarily evil, they are just not profitable? What are we storing up? Things that have no life – things that will ruin our life – or the Word that is our life?

III. The Best Place

- a. Now we store the Word of God in all kinds of places. We store it on our bookshelves, on our lampstands, on our phones. We've got the Word stored in a lot of external places, but the best place is the internal storehouse of the heart. Here's why.
- b. The heart is the best place to store up God's Word because it is the safest place to keep God's Word. If it's in your heart, it can't be taken and it can't be lost and it won't be forgotten. Someone said a dusty

Bible indicates a dusty heart. But if we store up God's Word in our hearts, if we treasure up the treasure, you can take away all my possessions, but you can't take away the Word of God that's in my heart! Fire may destroy my possessions and persecutors may confiscate my Bible, but I'll never lose what I've treasured.

- c. The heart is the best place because it's the most accessible place. If God's Word is in our hearts, then it will always be readily available when that friend needs to hear a Word from God and when we need to hear a Word from God, and that is a daily need.
- d. The heart is the best place because it is the most visited place. We spend time in our hearts more than we realize. When we are thinking, we are visiting our hearts. Thoughts formed in the mind are rooted in the heart. If we have treasured up the treasure, then we are constantly drawing from God's Word in our everyday thinking, planning, deciding, or daydreaming. Whatever is in the well, comes up in the bucket – whatever is in the heart, comes up in the mind.
- e. It is the best place because it is the place where the Word is most needed. We are led by our hearts, by our affections, by our desires. If our hearts are not full of the Word, they are full of something else. Whatever inhabits our hearts, directs our lives.

IV. The Grand Purpose

- a. Are you plagued with doubt, the Bible is filled with promises and truths concerning faith – store them up in your heart!
- b. Are you plagued with depression, the Bible is filled with promises and truths concerning joy and faith, store them up in your heart!
- c. Are you plagued with worry and anxiety and fear, the Bible is filled with rich promises and truths about God, store them up!
- d. Are you plagued with lust, the Bible is filled with promises and truths for holiness and purity, store them up!
- e. Are you plagued with self, the Bible is filled with promises and truths concerning purpose – are you plagued with an uncontrollable tongue, uncontrollable anger, addiction to substance, treasure up the treasure – that we might not sin against God
- f. Sin will keep you from this book, and this book will keep you from sin!