

# STUDY NOTES

ADVENT 2017

A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

[www.newcityphx.com/sermons](http://www.newcityphx.com/sermons)

The following content is based on the message “Advent: Hope” on 12/3/17 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

## PRAYER

*Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.*

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 6:19-24

## HEART FOLLOWS TREASURE

Your heart is the center of who you are. You have to think about it as your heart and your brain. It is the essence of life in terms of thinking, willing, and feeling. The heart forms the center of one’s affections and commitments. Thoughts, feelings, passions, desires all originate in the heart. Where your treasure is, your heart will be.

**Your heart always follows your treasure.**

- *Looking at where the treasure is in our American culture, where would you say most people’s heart is?*
- *What do you think this sort of treasure says about people?*
- *Where would you say that your treasure is? For instance, ask yourself where you spend your money or what you spend your time doing.*

## WHAT YOU LINGER ON YOU TREASURE

Just as the “heart” forms the center of one’s affections and commitments, the “eyes” enable the whole person to see. Good and bad eyes parallel a good and bad heart. What you linger on, you treasure. If you spend your time envying and judging what others have, you are a materialist.

**It is not about possessions, it is about what possesses you.**

- *What are the things that you find consume your eyes regularly?*
- *Have you ever judged someone else for having too many possessions? If so, why could that show you that you might be a materialist more than they are?*

## STORING TREASURE IN HEAVEN

Jesus is trying to point us to the only true source of hope, in Him. All the things that we have on this earth will be gone, so he tells us to store up our treasure in heaven. But how do we do that? We store up treasure in heaven through selfless living. Here are some examples:

- Doing good works - Ephesians 6:8; Romans 2:6
- Perserving under persecution - Luke 6:22-23
- Showing compassion to the needy - Luke 14
- Supporting widows and orphans - James 1:27
- Giving to your local church (tithing) - Mal. 3; Matt. 23:23

We don’t earn our salvation, but Jesus asks us to live selflessly. He set the example for us by being selfless for us. 2 Corinthians 8:9 says this about Jesus, “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”

- *It might seem selfish, but why is okay to work on laying up treasure for yourself in heaven?*
- *All of the things listed above, Jesus modeled for us when he was on earth. In what ways is the Holy Spirit leading you to live more selflessly?*
- *Pray with each other that the Holy Spirit would give you strength to live selflessly.*