

CHRISTMAS for ALL

Week 2: Peace

Matthew 6:19-34

¹⁹ "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in Heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. ²² Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is! ²⁴ No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money. ²⁵ That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your Heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to Him than they are? ²⁷ Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? ²⁸ And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, ²⁹ yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. ³⁰ And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, He will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? ³¹ So don't worry about these things, saying "what will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?" ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your Heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need. ³⁴ So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

The average American will spend **\$886** this Christmas

Average American debt: **\$92,727**

Money is the top cause of stress in most American's lives

Financial stress is also a leading cause of divorce

John 14:1

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in Me."

THE 10-10-80 PRINCIPLE:

10% **TITHE**

10% **SAVE**

80% **LIVE ON**

For Further Reflection:

- :: What is your current view of money and finances? Does it bring you stress?
- :: What was your upbringing in regard to finances? How has that shaped your views as an adult?
- :: How is God nudging you, through the lens of His provision, to think about money and finances?
- :: What are one or two practical things that He is asking you personally to do with your finances – even this week?

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New Living Translation [NLT].

Pastor Chris Conrad December 5, 2021

Watch this message and other recent messages online at heritageqc.com/watch

How to receive forgiveness from God:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new life in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new life from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In your name, Amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text "FAITH" to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

Join in bringing the joy and wonder of this season to those around us with these great opportunities—find out more in the Church Center App and at heritageqc.com:

CHRISTMAS BOXES

Heritage wants to partner with YOU in tangibly blessing to those in your circle of influence. Pick up a box along with a \$10 cash investment from Heritage toward helping another individual or family. Know God sees them, loves them, and cares for them. Boxes are available following services in campus lobbies and throughout the week at BridgePointe 485.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS – December 5

Share in a meal and journey with others, receiving great handholds for navigating the holiday season as you process loss and family challenges.



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