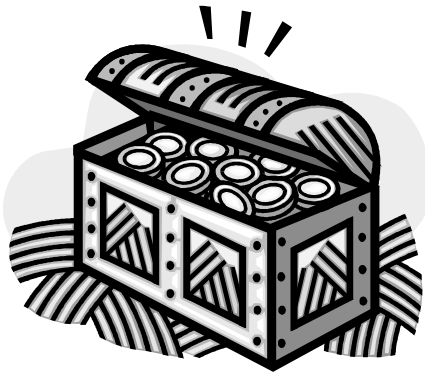




PEACE RIVER NEW CHURCH CURRENT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

JULY – AUGUST 2012



TREASURE ON EARTH, TREASURE IN HEAVEN

By Rev. Coleman Glenn

Someone recently asked me if there would be money in heaven. Just a few days earlier, that question had come up in an email conversation among some ministers. I've done some research in the Writings, and haven't been able to find any conclusive answer. One thing does seem certain: if there is a spiritual equivalent of money in heaven, it will not come along with all the stress and worry that comes along with natural money. Spiritual money would be a reflection of something spiritual, a reflection of use.

There are a few passages in the Writings that speak about trading and wealth in heaven. *Divine Providence* 217 says, "There are dignities and wealth in heaven as in the world, for there are governments there, and consequently administrations and functions. There is also trade there, and consequently wealth, since there are societies and communities there." This certainly makes it sound as if there is some kind of money in heaven, since there is wealth associated with trade. But other passages point out that we shouldn't think of this naturally. *Arcana Coelestia* 4453 says, "In heaven... there is no trading, for in heaven there is no gold, silver, or anything else such as are traded with in this world." That same passage goes on to say that when "trading" is mentioned in

the Word, in a general sense it means "acquisition and communication of knowledges." The Lord made this clear distinction: "'Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal'" (Matthew 6:19-20). There is heavenly treasure, but it's of a very different nature from earthly treasure.

Other passages indicate that when angels have knowledges about good, for example, they actually see gold objects around them, including gold coins; but no one in heaven would mistake these for the true treasure, which is the knowledge and the love itself. It's still hard to picture, though, exactly what the trading there would look like. We can get some idea of it, maybe, from the way a good conversation works here on earth. When we participate in a good conversation with someone else, we offer them our unique viewpoint, and we get something from theirs. We go into the conversation knowing there will be this interchange, but neither goes into it thinking, "What does the other person owe me," or, "I need to make sure that I don't offer them any more than they're willing to trade in return." Whatever the equivalent of "money" is in heaven would seem to work the same way: people offer each other valuable things, but the people on both sides would be far more concerned about offering something than with what they get in return – and both sides would go away richer for it.

That idea of "money," so to speak, is pretty far removed from the way we tend to think of money here and now. And when we say that we hope there isn't money in heaven, what we tend to mean is that we hope there isn't the need to acquire and deal with money that we have here on earth. And that's a good attitude to have. Money is not evil, but it does tend to bring our mind down to the natural level. The Lord didn't tell people to abolish money altogether – He advocated paying taxes, and donating money for the sake of the poor – but He also cautioned against the love of money. He said, "You

cannot serve God and mammon” – meaning, you have to either make God your God, or money your god – you can’t have it both ways.

So what is the healthiest way to approach money? First of all, we should look at it not as something to be gained for its own sake, but as something that allows people to perform uses for each other. Secondly, we should try to avoid worrying about money, and even spending too much of our time focusing on it. It’s not bad to plan for the future, and it’s good to be responsible and prudent with our money; but it can easily become a consuming worry.

Finally, we should recognize money, as with everything else, as being a gift from the Lord. Especially in North American culture, we put a big value on *earning* our money. That’s not inherently bad, but we also need to recognize along with that that whatever money we have is a *gift* from the Lord; yes, we may have gotten it through hard work, but that ability to find work was a gift and blessing from the Lord. The knowledge of how to save money is a gift from the Lord. And when we think of money this way, we can have more compassion for those who do not have money – and we can see our responsibility in prudently giving in a way that will truly help those who are less fortunate. The Writings make it clear that giving to the poor is not charity itself – otherwise someone could write a big cheque on one day of the year and live in hatred the other 364 days, and still think he was in charity – but the benefactions or “good deeds” of charity are still a part of charity. We are not to give indiscriminately – buying alcohol for an alcoholic is not charity, for example – but we are to give. And there’s incredible blessing when we do give, freely, from the heart to a cause that we see is truly doing good. Doing that consistently can help change our attitude toward money, where we more and more are able to see it is something that enables us to good, and less and less as something to be acquired for its own sake.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

July 8

11 a.m. Dawson Creek; 4:30 p.m. Grande Prairie

July 20-22:

Western Canada Camp at Moberly Lake

August 5

11 a.m. Dawson Creek; 4:30 p.m. Grande Prairie

Aug. 19

11 a.m. Dawson Creek; 4:30 p.m. Debolt

Note that the dates in August are the **first** and **third** Sundays, rather than the usual second and fourth Sundays for Grande Prairie / Debolt. We’ll return to our regular schedule in September.

WESTERN CANADA CAMP

The annual Western Canada Camp takes place this month at Camp Emile at Moberly Lake **from July 20-22**. Our theme this year will be the seven days of creation. As always, we’ll have classes for children and adults, as well as fun and games for everyone, along with plenty of time to relax and enjoy each other’s company. You are welcome to arrive in the late afternoon on Friday, July 20th; we’ll leave by late afternoon on Sunday. Total cost for the camp will be split between all campers and depends on total number of campers.

SIDEWALK UPDATE

Planning for the sidewalks is moving along. One idea we’re looking at is rather than putting in sidewalks, to pave the parking lot and have the pavement go right up to the entrances, making wheelchair and walker access easier. **If you have any thoughts on this, or any questions about the sidewalks, or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Rev. Coleman Glenn.**

THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

9013 8th Street

Dawson Creek, BC V1G 3N3

www.dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca

(250) 782-8035

Worship: Sundays at 11 a.m.

For information on services in Grande Prairie & Debolt, please contact Mrs. Lavina Scott at (780) 957-3625.

If you have news or other information for this publication, or if you have any pastoral concerns, please call the pastor, Coleman Glenn, at (250) 782-0710 or (cell) (250) 467-2313, or e-mail pastor@dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca.

Coleman’s office and mailing address is
1717 102nd Ave., Unit 5
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 5A9

CHURCH CALENDAR

JULY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Canada Day</i> NO SERVICES	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rev. Coleman S. Glenn away for clergy meetings (may be reached by email or cell phone)						
8 11 a.m. Traditional Service 4:30 p.m. Service and Class (Grande Prairie)	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 NO SERVICES	16	17	18	19	20 Evening: Arrive at Camp	21
					Campout: Camp Emile @ Moberly Lake	
22 11 a.m. Worship Service at Camp Emile <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> Campout </div>	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 NO SERVICES	30	31	All events take place at Dawson Creek Church of the New Jerusalem unless noted otherwise.			

CHURCH CALENDAR

AUGUST 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
All events take place at the Dawson Creek Church of the New Jerusalem unless noted otherwise.			1	2	3	4
5 11:00 a.m. Family Service 4:30 p.m. Worship and Class (Grande Prairie)	6	7	8	9	10	11
Rev. Coleman Glenn away (may be reached via email)						
12 NO SERVICES	13	14	15	16	17	18
Rev. Coleman Glenn away (may be reached via email)						
19 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service 4:30 p.m. Traditional Service (Debolt)	20	21	22	23	24	25
Rev. Coleman Glenn away (visiting minister on August 19 th)						
26 NO SERVICES	27	28	29	30	31	