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| **Only One Treasure Matters**  *Promise: the baptized believer is promised the Kingdom of God* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg Amos 6:1-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31 (16th Sunday after Pentecost, Pr. 21), 9/21/25  *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.* – 1Timothy 6:10  **Lead In –** Someone has said that we should treat money like a chainsaw with a warning label. Just as serious injury to life and limb can happen with the careless use of a chainsaw, so the allure of wealth can shipwreck a person’s Christian Faith and leave them destitute of their heavenly inheritance in the Kingdom of God. Temporal wealth is not the only false god we face, but Luther, for one, believed it to be one of the most popular idols. And our Lord Jesus certainly taught and warned as though it were a leading contender. The story He tells in the Gospel Reading this morning certainly stands as a stark and dire warning.   1. **A Nameless Rich Man, and A Poor Man Named Lazarus**    1. Pay attention to the names often elevated in the Bible…    2. Death, the great equalizer, or the great revealer?    3. Hearing while we can, and not when too late… 2. **Woe To Those Who Are At Ease in Zion**    1. The colorful language of the farmer Prophet…    2. Our Lord is not cosmic killjoy. Don’t miss the point…    3. Our purpose when things are going to pot… 3. **This World Is Not Our Home**    1. This world is not our home, stop living like it is…    2. The church helps us prepare and to die well…    3. Charlie Kirk’s death is not a tragic end…   **Final Word –** When a life lived well in the Lord is taken from us in death there is sadness. It is a loss to us. We have lost the close company of the dearly beloved. A true gift. We understandably do not want to let go of them. But the sadness is not for the dear saint of the Lord. Their life lived well in God’s grace leaves a legacy even while they are being rewarded richly beyond our imagination in the presence of our Savior. The question that matters for us is, “Am I living life well as a sinner redeemed by God’s grace in Christ.? Will I die a good death in the Christian Faith?” We cannot afford to be at ease in Zion and fall prey to the god of wealth. Beware of the love of money. Use it as a tool to help others and to promote the Gospel. Remember, only one treasure matters! Amen.  **2Th 1:9** They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.  **Ex 1:15-17** Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live.  **He 9:27** And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.  **1Jn 2:15-16** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the | **Luke 16:19-31 ESV**  *The Rich Man and Lazarus*  19[Jesus said:] “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. 22The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, 23and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. 24And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ 25But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. 26And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ 27And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— 28for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ 29But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ 30And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ 31He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”  world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.  **Am 6:4-6** Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!  **1Ti 6:6-8** But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.  **Mt 6:19-20** 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.  **Ph 3:20** But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ  **1Jn 2:17** And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. |

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