

Western Wisdom Bible Study

The Law Of Riches

To aid those interested in a deeper understanding of the scriptures, we offer a correspondence course of 28 lessons compiled from Max Heindel's writings. These lessons reveal the basic harmony of religion and science, and offer logical explanations for many misunderstood basic doctrines of the Church.

They are given out on a free will offering basis.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

—Matthew 6:19-24

Learning to give up the material world and all connected with it and to center one's interest upon the things of the Spirit is a lesson which confronts every aspirant on the path of esoteric Christianity.

Under the old regime, humani-

ty was encouraged to acquire material possessions. Burying material treasure in the ground or hiding it in vaults constructed in the walls of homes was practiced from early times in the East. but the Christ brought a higher ideal: one's treasures were to be those of the Spirit, the inner qualities of kindness, helpfulness, and selflessness, which cannot be affected by rust, moth, or thieves. People whose chief concern is for lands, houses, jewelry, money, or the various other things money will buy, have their heart, or center of being, in these things. The life becomes bound up in false values, or illusion, and the Spirit anchored to whatever caters to the lower self. Not that it is wrong to possess material means so long as they are used for good and unselfish purposes, but the heart's interest is not to be centered there.

The eye is indeed the light of the body, and the "window of the soul." If it be single, or perfectly healthy from the spiritual viewpoint, the body becomes full of light—permeated by the two higher ethers attracted by loving, self-forgetful service to others. If the eye be evil, or diseased from wrong liv-

ing, then the body is full of "darkness" or disease. Such an eye indicates one who is full of greed, envy, etc., and whose auric envelope is filled with these darksome poisons. The aura truly reveals whether material or spiritual treasure is paramount in the life.

In the closely knit families of the East it often happened that a servant would be called upon to serve two brothers. This was usually unpleasant because of the bitterness and jealousy that would arise between the two families over the attention and service of the servant. Few servants were able to love both families, though they might pretend to do so for selfish reasons. Even more difficult is it for one to serve God and mammon, the two being of opposite natures. He whose interests are wrapped up in the material world has no time to know or serve God. In like manner, the spiritual aspirant who strives to serve God by living according to His laws becomes freed from the temptations of the lower self and the material world. He learns that fine quality of discrimination which enables him to perceive that Reality is only of the Spirit. □