

Where Thieves Do Not Break In and Steal

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Without question, the experiences of life, good or bad, give us a greater appreciation and application of certain passages of Scripture. This was certainly true for myself and family following our recent home burglary. These familiar words of Jesus took on new meaning:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and **where thieves break in and steal**. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

Matthew 6:19-20 (Emphasis Mine)

I have always loved these words of our Savior. They have always given me purpose and priorities in my life as a Christian. However, they became much more personal following the actual experience of thieves breaking in and stealing.

Like many, we never expected that anyone would burglarize our house. I had seen plenty of alarm company advertisements, but never thought we needed anything of that nature. We always felt very secure and safe. It was perhaps this apparent false sense of security that found our house vulnerable. Needless to say, our house is now much more secure. We are not Fort Knox, but close.

Getting back to the words of Jesus, I wonder how many Christians are living with a false sense of security in regards to their faith? Certainly, if we are living faithful lives, we should feel secure in Christ. Paul is very clear about the security we can enjoy in Christ:

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

Romans 8:1-2

The apostle John also speaks of the security we have in Christ:

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:13

Let's not forget Peter's inspiring words for greater confidence:

Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

2 Peter 1:10

There are numerous passages like these which illustrate the confidence we have in Christ. However, an equal number of passages warning about the danger of falling away could also be offered. The false confidence some find in "once saved, always saved" is not found in the Bible.

The apostle Paul may have written that there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus, yet he constantly warned brethren of the possibility of being led away from the truth. He agonized over the thought that the Colossians and Laodiceans might be deluded in their faith through some persuasive sounding argument (Col. 2:1-4). He strongly urged the Galatians to turn away from any who were teaching a different doctrine (Gal. 1:6-9). He even acknowledged to Timothy the fact that some of the brethren, who were once secure in their faith, would fall away (2 Timothy 4:1-4).

While John wrote so we would know that we have eternal life, he also stated we must walk in the light to enjoy the cleansing of our sins in Christ (1 John 1:7-9).

While Peter wrote that we will never stumble so as to lose our eternal reward, he also used a very important word, "if." IF we are faithful, IF we turn away from false doctrines, IF we walk in the light, we can know our salvation is secure.

Jesus Himself, in the text from which this article was based, told us not to store up treasures on earth. If our treasures are merely earthly, we risk falling away.

Just as our family never thought our home would be burglarized, there are brethren who are perhaps falsely secure in their faith. Please consider the following Scriptures that instruct us on ways to make our faith stronger and more secure:

Attendance

Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:25

Study

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

Prayer

Pray without ceasing;

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Serving

For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'

Matthew 25:35-36

Daily Life

And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

Luke 9:23

It is a wonderful feeling to live with confidence in Christ. However, let us make sure we are truly living in Christ. Grace is not a license to sin or an excuse to be lazy. Grace is a reason to joyfully live in Jesus Christ!

Don't let thieves like complacency, laziness, secularism, materialism, and spiritual ignorance rob you of your eternal reward! Keep the faith. Fight the good fight. Finish the race. Doing so will secure an eternal reward that cannot be stolen.