

The Problem of Rust

IT WAS supposed to be a simple job. Hook up the trailer to the car and take it home. Actually, check the trailer tyres first, to see that they have enough air pressure for the journey. Why are these things never straightforward?

I pumped up the tyres, which instantly went flat again. I checked the tyres, which were fairly new and in good condition – how curious. I checked the valve of one, and it came off in my hand. The same happened on the other side. Oh dear. In fact, the problem was even worse: the metal wheels had rusted and rotted in the salty sea air, and they were good for nothing. Time to buy some new wheels!



Short-Term Worth

Anyone who has ever owned a car knows about the problem of rust. Within a few short years, the beautiful gleaming vehicle that you bought with your hard-earned

money has turned into a decaying pile of scrap.

It's not just cars and trailer wheels that deteriorate though. Plants grow and decay every season; wood rots and clothes may be eaten by moths. Unfortunately, even we get sick, and eventually die.

The same applies to any wealth or goods we may build up. It only takes a thief or a financial crisis for them to become worthless. In the West, many people have suffered their pensions being stolen or made valueless; in many countries, hyper-inflation makes money worthless.

A Better Alternative

The Bible offers a wonderful alternative. Jesus said:

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).

He was talking about exactly the problem we have been thinking about. We are given the opportunity to build up something of real value, something guaranteed by God who is in heaven.

God has promised that He will send Jesus back to the earth, to set up a kingdom

ruled by God's laws. It was the message Jesus taught:

Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:14–15).

For God's people, eventually everything which decays will be done away with:

God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away (Revelation 21:4).

This is a regular theme in *Glad Tidings*, one which appears in every edition.

Setting Our Priorities

Jesus continued, in Matthew chapter 6, explaining that these heavenly treasures should be our priority in life:

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21).

Because this treasure does not decay, we can be confident. Who better to place our trust in, than in the God who created the universe? He will care for us now, as well as wanting us to be in that kingdom:

Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?... Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? (v25, 27).

Note that Jesus did not say our lives would be made easy, or that we would not have to work for the things we need. He was telling us that we can trust in God, that He knows what is best for us.

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you (v33).

Christ is Coming

Jesus promised that he would return, and as he ascended to heaven, angels promised exactly that (Acts 1:11). Bible prophecy suggests that this time will be soon.

When Jesus does come, then our worldly goods will be of little use to us. In fact, the prophet Isaiah wrote this about how people will react when God judges the world:

In that day a man will cast away his idols of silver and his idols of gold, which they made, each for himself to worship, to the moles and bats (Isaiah 2:20).

God wants us to follow His commandments and in return offers us the opportunity of eternal life in the perfect, decay-free world in the future. To find out more, why not take a look at the Bible for yourself?

