

## GUARDING THE TREASURE CHEST OF OUR HEARTS!

Shabbat Shalom family, it is always good to come together and bring a joyful offering of thanksgiving and praise to our Master and Elohim - יהוה of Hosts – for He has called us out of darkness into His marvellous light!

Tonight I want to discuss the treasure of our heart and look at some key passages and root meaning of some Greek and Hebrew words that will help us be reminded of the responsibility we have to guard the Good deposit of His Word that He has written upon our hearts in a message called, **“GAURDING THE TREASURE CHEST OF OUR HEARTS!”**

**Qorintiyim Bet/2 Corinthians 4:6-7 “For Elohim, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts for the enlightening of the knowledge of the esteem of Elohim in the face of יהושע Messiah. 7 And we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the excellence of the power might be of Elohim, and not of us”**

As we recognise the great gift we have received in Messiah, which is abundant life, we also must realise that His Light that He has shone in our hearts is His Living Word – His Torah (instructions) as He has by the Blood of Messiah written His laws and commands on the fleshly tablets of our hearts, and as earthen vessels who now have this precious treasure of the Covenants of Promise to which we have been grafted into, we must do our utmost to guard the good deposit as we hear, guard and do His word and love Him with all our hearts.

I want to go through a number of Scriptures tonight in order for us to clearly be reminded what ought to be upon our hearts and what the outward working of our lives should be as a result of having that which is supposed to be written on our hearts! Having the Torah on our hearts is not a ‘new’ thing as we see clearly see in:

**Deḅarim/Deuteronomy 30:14 “For the Word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart – to do it.”**

Sha’ul quotes this verse in Romiyim/Romans 10:8 and makes it clear that our belief is seen in our obedient walking according to that which is on our hearts and on our lips – sadly so many twist these words of Sha’ul into thinking that all you have to do is ‘believe’ and be saved, yet what he is saying is that you must believe what is written on your hearts, then by the confession of your mouth declaring the Truth, you must walk in the belief of His Living instructions written on your heart, so that your actions line up with your words. Those who reject the Torah of Elohim are simply rendering a vain lip service while their hearts are far from Him as His Word finds no place in their wicked and dark hearts!

More and more of late I have been emphasising the clear picture of having a pure and undefiled heart – that is to make sure that there is no lawless or rebellious thinking being rooted deep within which causes a rejection to walking in the pure instructions of our Master and King, but rather recognise the need for us to guard our hearts and minds in Messiah and holding fast to that which He has shone upon our hearts. The tests that we go through in life is to see if in fact we guard His commands or whether we have let His commands be stolen from our hearts:

**Deḅarim/Deuteronomy 8:2 “And you shall remember that יהוה your Elohim led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, prove you, to know what is in your heart, whether you guard His commands or not.”**

If we are not careful to guard our hearts we may just end up allowing other junk being stored up in our hearts and cause us to fall away and follow after other false mighty ones of self and the pleasures of this life:

**Deḅarim/Deuteronomy 11:16 “Guard yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other mighty ones and bow down to them.”**

Our thought life is driven by what we store up in our hearts and when the Torah is neglected, then so is love for Elohim and love for one another neglected, as lawlessness/sin roots itself in the place where love and obedience should be as a result of meditating on the Torah day and night!

**Deḅarim/Deuteronomy 15:9 “Be on guard lest there be a thought of Beliya’al in your heart, saying, ‘The seventh year, the year of release, is near,’ and your eye is evil against your poor brother and you give him naught. And he shall cry out to יהוה against you, and it shall be a sin in you.”**

Guarding the heart is a theme we find all throughout Scripture and it is a very important theme that makes us realise how critical it is for us to be sober and awake as we keep our hearts filled with His Good word – so that we are able to love Him with ALL our heart:

**Deḅarim/Deuteronomy 26:16 “Today יהוה your Elohim is commanding you to do these laws and right-rulings. And you shall guard and do them with all your heart and with all your being.”**

Our hearts are the treasure chest for His Word and the question we must continually be asking ourselves is whether we are guarding the Word of Elohim that He has entrusted to us or not – and the state of our hearts can be clearly seen in our speech and actions – therefore I ask you – How is your heart?

What struck me this week and stirred me to look into this topic of our hearts being a treasure chest for the Word is by the words of Messiah in:

**Mattithyahu/Matthew 6:21-24 “For where your treasure is, there your heart shall be also. 22 “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, all your body shall be enlightened. 23 “But if your eye is evil, all your body shall be darkened. If, then, the light that is within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 “No one is able to serve two masters, for either he shall hate the one and love the other, or else he shall cleave to the one and despise the other. You are not able to serve Elohim and mammon.”**

Where your treasure is – there your heart will be also!!! This Greek word used for ‘treasure’ is θησαυρός thēsauros – Strong’s G2344 which means, ‘*place in which good and precious things are collected and laid up, a storehouse or treasury*’ and what Messiah is saying here is that your heart is a treasure chest and what is inside it will determine who you are and how you walk. Metaphorically the treasure speaks of the storehouse of the mind and heart, and speaks of one’s thoughts, feelings, and what counsel is taken in and treasured up. In other words our hearts are a place to keep precious things – the question is simply this – “**What is precious to you?**”

This word θησαυρός thēsauros comes from the root word τίθημι tithēmi – Strong’s G5087 which means, ‘*to lay up, lay aside, appoint, establish*’.

**Mattithyahu/Matthew 12:35** “**The good man brings forth what is good from the good treasures of his heart, and the wicked man brings forth what is wicked from the wicked treasure.**”

In Hebrew we know that the term ‘good’ means to be functional, and by that I mean functional according to the Creators design; whereas ‘wicked or evil’ means the exact opposite, meaning to be dysfunctional and operating outside of the design and function of the Creators design!

We who were once in darkness, having been called out and found this great treasure of the Light of His Word must do our utmost to not let the darkness of the world come and steal away the joy of the light of His Truth that has been deposited in us, and this means that we must count the cost and forsake all that would defile the treasure chest of our hearts!

**Mattithyahu/Matthew 13:44** “**Again, the reign of the heavens is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man having found it, hid, and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.**”

The reign of the heavens, to which we ascribe, is the rule and authority under which we submit and choose to live by and therefore as clay vessels with the treasure of His reign in us must guard it with our all – and it will cost you your all” The treasure of His Truth is hidden in the field which is the world and few find it, because few are actually seeking it; and when we see that it is the esteem of Elohim to hide a matter, and the esteem of sovereigns to search out a matter, we realise that we who have found this treasure are a very small remnant and must be aware of the desperate need to guard what we have found, with our all!

By the work of His Right Hand, Elohim created for Himself a people, which for Him is a costly possession and a choice treasure; and therefore we who are His treasured possession must recognise what is in turn demanded of us – and that is to live a life full of zeal and be ardent for the good works prepared beforehand for us to do, which is to walk in His Torah as we live soberly in righteousness!

**Shemoth/Exodus 19:5-6** “**And now, if you diligently obey My voice, and shall guard My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession above all the peoples – for all the earth is Mine – and you shall be to Me a reign of priests and a set-apart nation.’ Those are the words which you are to speak to the children of Yisra’ël.**”

The Hebrew word used here for **treasured possession** is סְגֻלָּה segullah – Strong’s H5459 meaning ‘**valued possession or property**’. This could also be expressed as “**My uniquely valued and guarded treasure above all the nations**”! How awesome is that!!! A hearing, guarding and doing people are the uniquely valued and guarded treasure of יהוה’s; that is to say that He holds us firmly in His hand and never takes His eyes off of us and guards us continually so as to never let us go for we are extremely valued and precious to Him. When outsiders look at us they may see it as being locked away in a box, thinking that we ‘have to do’ things that are not required by them and claim erroneously that we have lost our rights and are ‘under law’ so to speak – but it is not so – we are kept secure and safe and are a prized possession. **Do what He says, and you will be glad you did.**

Sha’ul is referring to this verse in his letter to Titos as we see in him speaking of Messiah in:

**Titos/Titus 2:14** “**who gave Himself for us, to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for Himself a people, His own possession, ardent for good works.**”

This Greek word used here for ‘**possession**’ is περιούσιος periousios – Strong’s G4041 meaning, ‘**peculiar**’ and speaks of that which is one’s own, or belonging to one’s possessions. This is the only time this word is used in the renewed writings (N.T.) and it is the word used in the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Tanak (O.T.) as the equivalent to the Hebrew word segullah. This Greek word περιούσιος periousios is a compound of two words:

**1 - περί peri** – Strong’s G4102 which is a preposition meaning, ‘**about, concerning, around**’ and denotes a place, cause or subject, and

**2 - εἰμί eimi** – Strong’s G1510 which is a prolonged form of a primary verb that means, ‘**I exist, I am, it is I**’ and so by understanding that we are the treasured possession and chosen elect of the I AM – the Most High – and that we are a purchased people, we in turn see our need to be ardent for good works unto Him who causes us to exist and be, and to whom we belong!

As we walk in obedience to the commands we see in Debarim as part of the blessings for obedience that His good ‘treasure’ of the heavens are opened to us:

**Debarim/Deuteronomy 28:12** “**יהוה opens to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. And you shall lend to many nations, but you do not borrow.**”

This word for 'treasure' is אוֹצָר *otsar* – Strong's H214 which means, 'storehouse, treasury, armoury' and comes from the root verb אָצַר *atsar* – Strong's H686 meaning, 'to lay up, store up, appointed'.

This root verb is used in:

**Nehemyah/Nehemiah 13:13** "And I appointed as treasurers over the storehouse Shelemyah the priest and Tsadoq the scribe, and Pedayah of the Lēwites. And next to them was Hanan son of Zakkur, son of Mattanyah. For they were reckoned trustworthy, and it was on them to distribute to their brothers."

Nehemyah appointed as treasurers trustworthy men who would guard the duty and when we look at these names we see a powerful description of a true treasurer of the Word of Elohim:

שְׁלֵמְיָהוּ *Shelemyah* – Strong's H8018 means, 'repaid by יהוה' who was the priest and צָדוֹק *Tsadoq* – Strong's H6659 which means, 'righteous' who was the 'scribe' which is the verb סָפַר *saphar* – Strong's H5608 which means, 'to score with a mark as a tally or record, to inscribe, to count, declare, number, tell'; and he was the son of מַתַּנְיָהוּ *Mattanyah* – Strong's H4983 which means, 'gift of Yah'. Those who have counted the cost and received the gift of Elohim that He paid in His own Blood, and are willing to declare His Good News are able to be appointed as trustworthy treasurers of His treasure –and what is His treasure?

**Yeshayahu/Isaiah 33:6** "And He shall be the trustworthiness of your times, a wealth of deliverance, wisdom and knowledge. The fear of יהוה – that is His treasure."

The fear of יהוה – that is His treasure and I have spoken recently on the fear of יהוה, which is a clear reference to that which flows from His gut – in other words His Word – and we who walk in the fear of יהוה, guard to carefully walk in His Word!

His Word is no longer on tablets of stone inside an ark but is now written upon our hearts, and we must diligently guard our hearts so as to not make the same mistake our forefather's made in the enemy stealing away the presence of His Word because of rebellion and sin and a hard heart!

**Melakim Aleph/1 Kings 8:61** "Let your heart therefore be perfect to יהוה our Elohim, to walk in His laws and guard His commands, as at this day."

A perfect heart is a guarded heart, and a guarded heart of good treasure brings forth that which is good and pleasing to Elohim.

**Tehillim/Psalm 119:34** "Make me understand, that I might observe Your Torah, and guard it with all my heart."

Understanding comes in the doing, and the doing cannot come from that which is not stored up and treasured in the heart!

**Mishlë/Proverbs 4:4** "Then he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; Guard my commands, and live."

**Mishlë/Proverbs 4:20-21** "My son, listen to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Let them not depart from your eyes; guard them in the midst of your heart"

**Qolasim/Colossians 3:16** "Let the Word of Messiah dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing with pleasure in your hearts to the Master in psalms and songs of praise and spiritual songs."

Being entrusted with the Word of Elohim must cause us to realise that we are not to try to be pleasures of men, as this attempt at trying to please man often results in a disregard for the Torah:

**Tas'Ioniqim Bet/ 2 Thessalonians 2:4** "But as we have been approved by Elohim to be entrusted with the Good News, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but Elohim who proves our hearts."

Guarding requires an alertness and a soberness in order to fix our eyes on the Truth; and as Messiah tells us that the lamp of the body is the eye, we are also reminded in Tehillim/Psalm 119:105 that the Word is a lamp to our feet – in other words where you look to is where you will walk to and we must always be assessing our lives to determine in which direction we are in fact walking as it is so easy to be blinded by deception and follow "false lights". יהושע

Messiah is the Light of the world that came to separate the light from the darkness and we who turn to Him have had the veil removed and so we are to fix our eyes on Him, and with unveiled faces, see His esteem through the mirror of His Word and be changed and transformed into that same likeness as set out in His instructions for a set-apart and treasured people!

**Mishlë/Proverbs 6:23-24** "For the command is a lamp, and the Torah a light, and reproofs of discipline a way of life, 24 to guard you against an evil woman, from the flattering tongue of a strange woman."

What we must recognise is that those who have a wrong lamp and are following the flattering lies of the strange woman will have their lamps put out!

**Mishlë/Proverbs 13:9** "But the lamp of the wrong is put out."

My encouragement and warning to you tonight is to guard the treasure chest of your heart and as we have heard through the words of our Master that out of the treasure of one's heart, be it good or evil, will flow forth words, either of truth or of inherited lies! What is the state of your heart? What does the storehouse of your heart look like? Are you guarding it with your all or have you given free access and reign to the enemy and are lured away from guarding diligently the good deposit as the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life draw you away from keeping the soil of your heart good? What you sow you shall reap – what are you sowing daily into the soil and treasuries of your heart? Is it His Word or is it selfishness and pride? It is faith that comes by hearing or has doubt, worry and anxieties of life choked out the Word you once had sown and neglected to water and guard?

Have you grown weary of doing good because you let the enemy steal some of your joy?

Can you echo the words of Sha'ul as he tells us in:

**Qorintiyim Bet/2 Corinthians 4:1-2** “Therefore, having this service, even as we received compassion, we do not lose heart, <sup>2</sup> but have renounced the secret ways of shame, not walking in craftiness nor falsifying the Word of Elohim, but by the manifestation of the truth recommending ourselves to every human conscience, in the sight of Elohim.”

**Do not lose heart!!!**

The Greek word used here for 'lose heart' is ἐκκακέω *ekkakeō* – Strong's G1573 meaning, 'lose heart, grow weary, exhausted, become faint' and comes from two words: 1 - ἐκ *ek* – Strong's G1537 which means, 'from, from out of' and is used as a preposition denoting the origin or point from where the action proceeds; and 2 - κακός *kakos* – Strong's G2556 meaning, 'evil, wicked, bad things, loathsome, wrong'.

To lose heart speaks of growing weary of doing good as a result of wickedness and evil being present in one's life, or as a result of being involved in doing that which is wrong and loathsome in the sight of Elohim as measured against the clear plumb line of His Word.

Ėsaw came in demanding a bowl of food after being exhausted, and in the process sold his birthright – do not lose heart – for that is the result of those who walk according to the flesh and seek to satisfy the flesh rather than seek the righteousness of Elohim.

**Galatiyim/Galatians 6:9** “And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not grow weary.”

**Timotiyos Bet/2 Timothy 1:14** “Watch over the good deposit that was entrusted to you, by the Set-apart Spirit dwelling in us.”

As we watch over the good deposit that has been entrusted into the treasure chest of our hearts by guarding to do all He has commanded us, His treasured treasurers, to do - then this is a sure promise:

**Pilipiyim/Philippians 4:7** “And the peace of Elohim, which surpasses all understanding, shall guard your hearts and minds through Messiah יהושע.”

In these last days we see, as Messiah told us, that as lawlessness increases so will the love of many grow cold – let us not be one of them but rather let us fervently encourage each other daily and not neglect the gathering of the set-apart ones, but encourage one another all the more each day, while it is called “Today,” lest any of us be hardened by the deceivableness of sin and find that our treasure chest has been emptied of the good treasure of Elohim!

Perhaps you have been through some trials and have been battle weary under the pressures and worries of life – so much so that your heart has become defiled in some degree or another – then hear these words and cleanse the heart from sin and lawlessness as you look to our Master, turning away from all wickedness and sin and set your eyes on His pure Torah that leads us in the life He has freely given us, and do your utmost to guard your heart in order that you are able to love Him with all your heart and let no defiled attempt at love be present! Choose today whom you are going to serve and where you lay up your treasures. Remember that where your treasure is there will your heart be also – where is your heart is today's question?

As you guard His Good Word in you, let all your body be enlightened and shine His truth for all to see as you give your all to our Master and hold nothing back, amĕn!

Shalom!