

PARCHMENT

AND HE SAID UNTO ME, WRITE: FOR THESE WORDS ARE TRUE AND FAITHFUL.

REVELATION 12:5



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; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21

A QUESTION OF VALUE

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus presents the kingdom of heaven - the reward of the righteous - "as a treasure hid in a field; which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof" gives all that he has for its attainment. Matthew 13:44. In this simple illustration, Christ highlights how a true valuation of His gift is critical for man's salvation. The genuinely dedicative and sacrificial life comes first from an awareness of the preciousness of the prize.

In commenting on this parable, Sister White aligns the field with the Holy Scriptures, and the treasure with the gospel. She explains that "it [the gospel] is an inexhaustible treasure; but men fail to find this treasure because they do not search [through the Scriptures] until it is within their possession". {COL 109}

Undeniably, a treasure can only impart joy to a man who seeks for it, and secures it as his own. Whilst buried beneath a stranger's land, the treasure is powerless. Without a knowledge of its existence, no blessings can be gained from its infinite stores. And yet, knowledge alone is not enough. If one refuses to give all for its reward, their knowledge is in vain.

In this light, one's awareness of the gospel - of the simple existence of Christ's life - is also not enough. Each must seek for the treasure daily, doing all that they can in love for the attainment of the kingdom

of God. Jesus implores us: "hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." Revelation 3:11. It is His desire that we, like Paul, might pronounce: "there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day". 2 Timothy 4:8. Surely this is what it means to "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven". Matthew 6:20. It is Christ who invites us to dwell on the sure-reward, and wholly dedicate our lives to its aim.

In reality, sanctification is a simple science. In the following verse, Jesus explains: "for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also". Matthew 6:21. The man who seeks for the hidden treasure, who "for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field", is he who recognises its true value.

To others, it may appear that he's encountered a loss. Perhaps his original property bore great social acclaim. To them, this new field appears largely over-priced. They haven't sought out the treasure for themselves, so they cannot accurately esteem its worth. Only the man who's seen the treasure knows its value. And to him, no price is too great.

For the gift is free, but the guidelines are plain. Christ states: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me". Matthew 16:24.



As manifest in the story of the rich young ruler, Christ longs to draw all men unto Himself. His earnest plea: “go and sell that thou hast” and “come and follow me” is the same call given to us today. Though here, as Christ proclaimed: “thou shalt have treasure in heaven”, the rich young ruler failed to hear. Instead, “he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions”. Matthew 19:22.

The rich young ruler valued the things of this world more than the things of heaven. And for each one of us who remain in bondage to sin, the case is the same. Every sealed fate - whether unto life eternal or eternal loss - is a reflection of what was valued most in the life. Sadly, for the rich young rulers of today, this short, pain-stricken life is worth more than the infinite treasures of the kingdom of God. They have failed to realise that “a man may gather all he can; he may live, think, and plan for self; but his life passes away, and he has nothing”. {DA 624}

By contrast, the faithful affirm: “our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;” 2 Corinthians 4:17. To this small minority, no price is too great. They have recognised the value of the cross. To them, nothing can match the infinite cost of the blood of the Son of God. They have experienced the joy of His treasure. His precious life has struck their hearts. And with one voice, they stand to proclaim: “heaven is cheap enough”! {RH July 21, 1851}

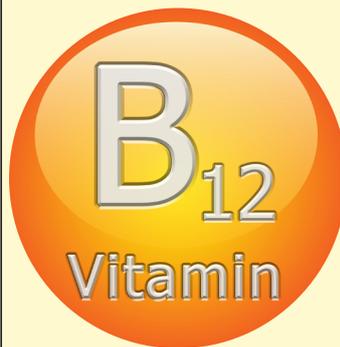
THE CRITICAL CASE FOR VITAMIN B12

By Chris Sparks

Vitamin B12 (also known as the energy vitamin) is a crucial component for maintaining multiple aspects of health. These include: energy production, cognitive activity, and healthy nerve function. A recent study has shown that 25% of adults are deficient in this vitamin. Common symptoms of which include: mental fogginess; problems with your memory; mood swings; lack of motivation; fatigue; muscle weakness; and tingling in your extremities.

The Dangers of B12 Deficiency

The body stores vitamin B12 in the tissues, so it may take years to deplete these stores. However, after about seven years of B12 deficiency, irreversible brain damage can result. Thus, any deficiency in this vitamin is of serious concern. Another consequence of low B12 levels is the development of anemia, since B12 is essential for the formation of red blood cells.



How Do We Obtain B12?

Fungi, plants, animals and humans are each incapable of producing their own B12. Only bacteria is capable of producing this vital nutrient. Such bacteria exists in a healthy human digestive tract and from here, supplies the body. Thus, in maintaining a healthy digestive tract one can facilitate the production of intestinal flora, which is used to create vitamin B12. For most however, adequate B12 levels cannot be obtained in this way. Some animals, like cows, readily obtain B12 from their digestive systems and are therefore rich in this nutrient. Yet for those of us who wish to follow a vegetarian diet, other options are certainly available.

Vegans may obtain B12 by attempting to maintain the right gut-flora, through the use of fermented foods or supplementation. Vegetarians may obtain B12 through the use of eggs or dairy, yet caution is needed since disease in the animal kingdom is widespread and most sources of animal products are unfit for use. The following testimony was given by Sister White to a man who - among other things - appears to have been extremely low in vitamin B12: