



**Matthew 6:19-21:**

*<sup>19</sup>Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

My grandmother’s house smelled like mothballs. She was a woman who raised a child during the depression. She knew what it meant to go without, and so she held on to everything, not because she was obsessed with things material, rather she had lived in a time of scarcity, rations, and want. She always thought she might need something later and didn’t want to be without it. She took left over soap scraps and put them in a large mason jar in the bathroom. From this she fashioned soap balls to be used as hand soap. She reused pie tins a number of times and for different jobs. She hung them as ornaments on her fig tree to scare away birds. She would harvest and can figs each year. She wasted nothing.

Oh but the mothballs! I loved going to her house on Sundays because the smell of fried chicken and chocolate pie and yeast rolls or biscuits was overwhelming. But the other six days of the week: mothballs! What was most interesting was that my grandmother was going to protect all of her clothes using that most malodorous of defenses, no matter how old her clothing was, no matter how long it had been since she had worn them. In fact, my grandmother had about 3 outfits my whole life. Everything else was being saved with mothballs for a later time to wear which would never come.

Good stewardship, at first glance, could have been my grandmother’s argument for preserving all the clothes that she would never wear again. Why throw away perfectly good clothes that might come back in style one day? But the real reason my grandmother kept all those old clothes was fear, fearful of the day that she might have no money for clothes and nothing to wear. The clothes were a kind of security for her, this from a woman who went to Sunday School and church every week of her life. She trusted God, and yet she also trusted things, even if in the most modest and humble of ways.

I know that materialism is a challenge for some, but for most Christians, the trap is fear. When we trust God, fear melts. When fear grabs us, trust in God melts. God shrinks for us when fear takes hold. Let us spend this Stewardship season looking inwardly at our hearts.

God wants your heart. We must trust God before we can give God our hearts. If God is your treasure, everything else falls into place.

Peace,  
Ron

This Week’s Daily Bible Readings					
<i>Growing with God’s Word and Pursuing Justice and Peace</i>			Wednesday	October 24	Amos 2:1-16
Sunday	October 21	Isaiah 58:1-14	Thursday	October 25	Amos 3:1-15
Monday	October 22	Isaiah 59:1-21	Friday	October 26	Amos 4:1-13
Tuesday	October 23	Amos 1:1-15	Saturday	October 27	Amos 5:1-27