



Stairway To Heaven



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- Written by: Jimmy Page (music) and Robert Plant (lyrics) of Led Zeppelin
- The song uses symbolic language & poetic imagery to describe a woman seeking meaning & fulfillment, trying to "buy" her way into heaven.
- Though not a Christian song, its lyrics provoke questions about life's meaning, materialism, morality & the journey toward eternal destiny - all themes deeply rooted in Scripture.

Stairway to Heaven

There's a lady who's sure all that glitters is gold

And she's buying a stairway to Heaven

When she gets there, she knows if the stores are all closed

With a word, she can get what she came for

Ooh, and she's buying a stairway to Heaven

ALL THAT GLITTERS

All That Glitters

- Earthly riches can't buy salvation.

*19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,
20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19 - 21 ESV)*

All That Glitters

- The illusion of wealth leading to heaven is deceptive.

28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf. (Proverbs 11:28 ESV)

- There is only one true way to Heaven - not through works or wealth.

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6 ESV)

All That Glitters

- The woman symbolizes humanity's pursuit of false hope.

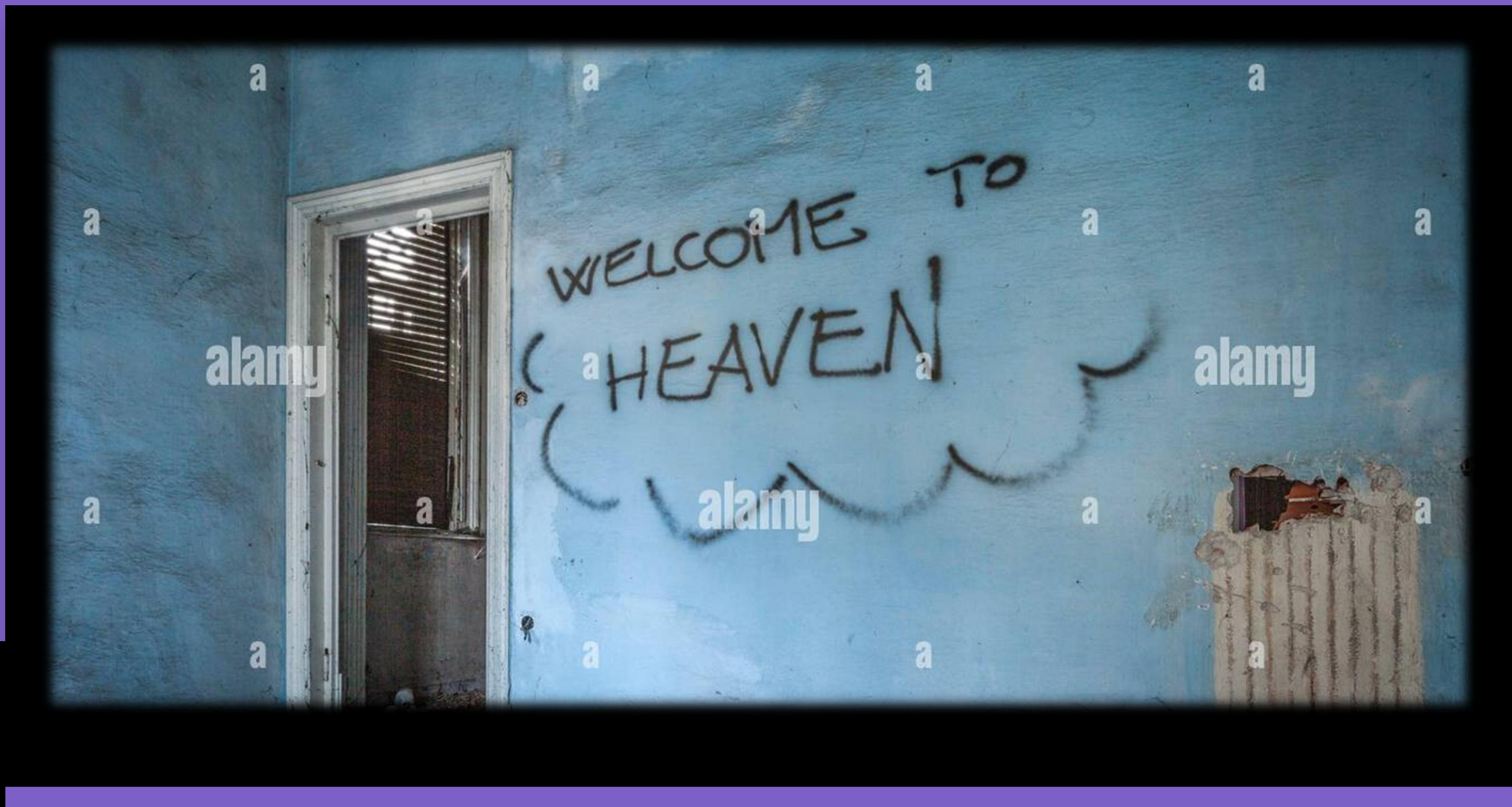
10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. (Ecclesiastes 5:10 ESV)

- Heaven cannot be earned; it is received by grace through faith.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV)

Stairway to Heaven

*There's a sign on the wall, but she wants to be sure
'Cause you know sometimes words have two meanings
In a tree by the brook, there's a songbird who sings
Sometimes all of our thoughts are misgiven*



Heavenly Sign

- Seekers demand signs - People often question spiritual signs.
- Jesus is the true wisdom

22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Corinthians 1:22–24 ESV)

Heavenly Sign

- God's Word gives clear direction.

*105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
(Psalm 119:105 ESV)*

- “Words with two meanings” reflects spiritual confusion.
- Even Satan masquerades as an angel of light.

*14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an
angel of light. 15 So it is no surprise if his servants, also,
disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end
will correspond to their deeds. (2 Cor. 11:14–15 ESV)*

Heavenly Sign

- The songbird may represent the Holy Spirit or conscience.
- The Spirit leads into all truth.

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. (John 16:13 ESV)

Heavenly Sign

- Misgivings come from doubt, not faith.
- Doubters are tossed like waves of the sea.

6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. (James 1:6 ESV)

Stairway to Heaven

There's a feeling I get when I look to the west

And my spirit is crying for leaving

In my thoughts, I have seen rings of smoke through the trees

And the voices of those who stand looking



Longing
For
Heaven

Longing for Heaven

- Our soul naturally longs for eternity - God set eternity in our hearts.

*11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.
(Ecclesiastes 3:11 ESV)*

Longing for Heaven

- Spiritual longing must lead to Jesus.

1 As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. (Psalm 42:1 ESV)

- Visions & voices should be tested.

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1 ESV)

Longing for Heaven

- Looking to the west may imply setting sun - end of life.

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:12 ESV)

- God speaks to our hearts when we are quiet.

15 For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” But you were unwilling, (Isaiah 30:15 ESV)

Stairway to Heaven

*And it's whispered that soon if we all call the tune
Then the piper will lead us to reason
And a new day will dawn for those who stand long
And the forests will echo with laughter*



FALSE SPIRITUAL LEADERS

False Spiritual Leaders

- The “piper” may symbolize a false spiritual leader.
- People will gather teachers to suit their desires.

3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. (2 Timothy 4:3–4 ESV)

False Spiritual Leaders

- Only Jesus leads us to truth.

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:27 ESV)

- A “new day” comes in Jesus’ return bringing a new heaven & new earth.

13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (2 Peter 3:13 ESV)

False Spiritual Leaders

- “Calling the tune” is human-centered; we must submit to God’s will.

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2 ESV)

False Spiritual Leaders

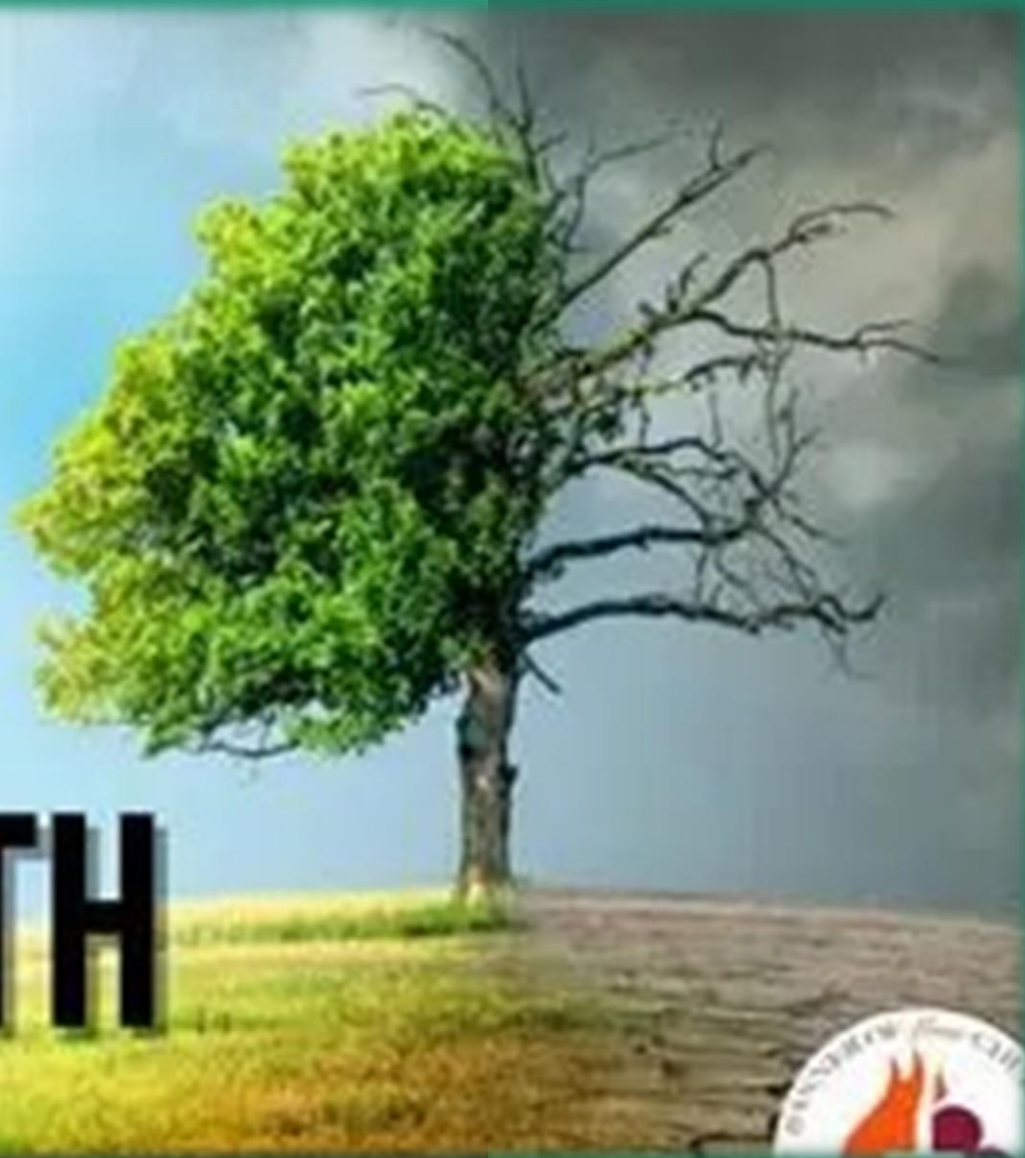
- Joy & restoration await believers.

12 “For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.” (Isaiah 55:12 ESV)

Stairway to Heaven

*If there's a bustle in your hedgerow, don't be alarmed now
It's just a spring clean for the May queen
Yes, there are two paths you can go by, but in the long run
There's still time to change the road you're on*

CHOOSE
ETERNAL LIFE
NOT
ETERNAL DEATH



Choose Eternal Life

- Disruption in life can awaken spiritual awareness.
- God works through all things.

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28 ESV)

- The “May queen” represents temporary beauty or ritual.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. (Isaiah 40:8 ESV)

Choose Eternal Life

- Two paths symbolize choice - Choose life or death.

19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, (Deuteronomy 30:19 ESV)

Choose Eternal Life

- It's never too late to change direction.

*2 For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
(2 Corinthians 6:2 ESV)*

Choose Eternal Life

- God offers second chances - The father ran to his returning son.

20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

(Luke 15:20 ESV)

Stairway to Heaven

Your head is humming and it won't go, in case you don't know

The piper's calling you to join him

Dear lady, can you hear the wind blow?

And did you know

Your stairway lies on the whispering wind? Oh



LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF GOD



Listening to the Voice of God

- Mental noise & confusion can drown God's voice.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7 ESV)

- The wrong “piper” leads to destruction.
- Many false prophets will deceive many.

11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. (Matthew 24:11 ESV)

Listening to the Voice of God

- God still whispers truth - His still small voice.

*12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.
(1 Kings 19:12 ESV)*

- Life is a vapor - Don't delay responding to Jesus.
- We are a mist that appears briefly.

14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. (James 4:14 ESV)

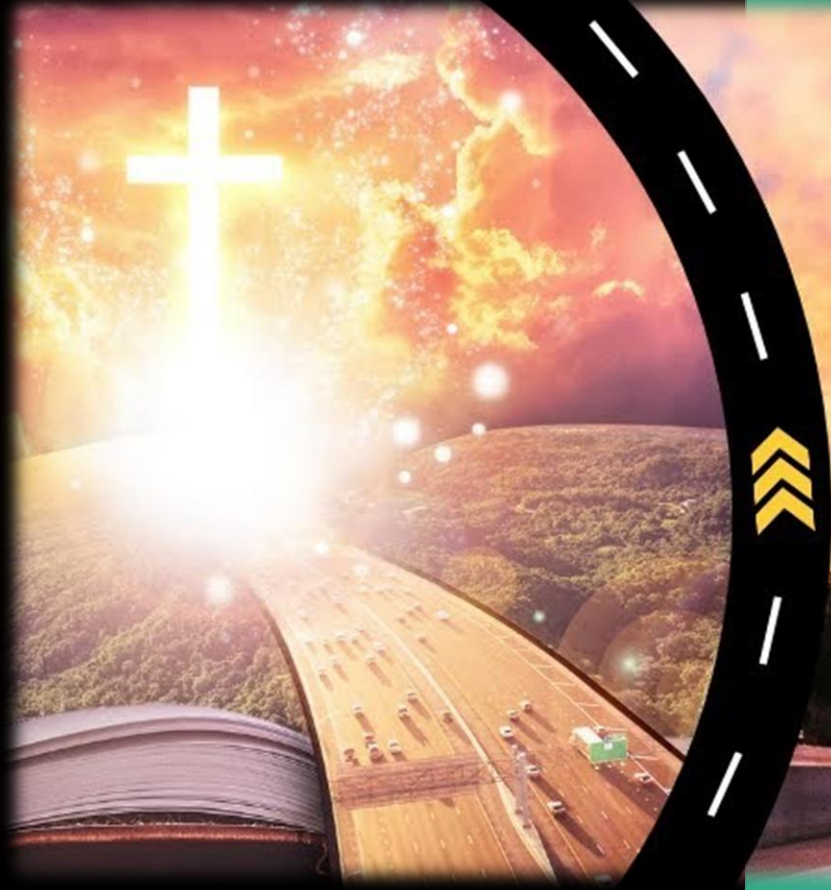
Listening to the Voice of God

- Our eternity is not in the wind, but in Jesus.

3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:3–4 ESV)

Stairway to Heaven

*And as we wind on down the road
Our shadows taller than our soul
There walks a lady we all know
Who shines white light and wants to show
How everything still turns to gold
And if you listen very hard
The tune will come to you at last
When all are one, and one is all, yeah
To be a rock and not to roll*



**On the Road
to Eternity:**

CHOOSE YOUR PATH

On the Road to Eternity

- We are all walking toward eternity.
- People are destined to die once, then judgment.

27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, (Hebrews 9:27 ESV)

- No one shines with their own light; only Jesus is the light.

2 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12 ESV)

On the Road to Eternity

- Everything man treasures turns to dust - Lay up treasures in heaven

*19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,
20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19–21 ESV)*

On the Road to Eternity

- Truth is found when we listen hard to God's Word.
- Faith comes by hearing the Word.

17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17 ESV)

- To be a rock means standing on Jesus - Wise is the man who builds on the rock.

24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock." (Matthew 7:24 ESV)

Practical Applications

- Turn from false paths & trust Jesus alone.
- Don't delay decisions for Jesus - now is the time.
- Listen for God's voice in the Word, not the world.
- Share the truth gently with those who are spiritually searching.
- Let go of pride, wealth, or ritual as a way to heaven.
- Build your life on the rock of Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think so many people believe they can “earn” their way to heaven?
- How can you tell if a spiritual message is from God or misleading?
- How do you personally recognize God's voice in your life?
- What does it mean to build your life on the Rock?
- How can seniors share the truth about salvation with family or friends lovingly?



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