



# THAT CHRISTIAN WEBSITE

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

Newsletter - Issue #14



## “Gold Rush ” (1)

Gold! Treasure! History records a great number of “gold rushes” throughout the world. Americans experienced gold rushes in no less than Nevada, Alaska, Colorado, Washington, South Dakota, Wyoming, North Carolina, Georgia, Idaho, and California. A number of people consider the gold rush to be something of the past. However, a recent report on the Madre de Dios region of Peru shows gold rushes are modern too (1). Whether in past or present, gold rushes not only exist as fascinating phenomena to study, but also good parallels to the life of a Christian.

All gold rushes begin with the same catalyst: “Discovery!” When seeking uncovers a substance of value, discovery sparks joy as seen in **Matthew 13:44**. It also sparks action. Treasure found compels the seeker to engage in actions that assure he can claim it as his own. Spiritually speaking, discovery occurs every time without fail for those who seek heavenly treasure (**Matthew 7:7**). The value found in the treasure of salvation cannot be measured; what value can be put upon knowing one’s soul no longer carries the burden of sin (**Matthew 16:26**).

As a man acts to secure his treasure, others will take notice. The message may shoot around the world. With the California Gold Rush, not only did Americans sell everything to get to California, but citizens of England, China, Germany, Canada, France, South America, Italy, and other countries did so as well. They wanted to experience the California Dream. “As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.” (**Proverbs 25:25**). With the arrival of good news of the Gospel, Jesus found no place to rest his head (**Matthew 8:20**). Continually, multitudes sought Him out desiring to acquire the treasure freely given in Christ (**Romans 3:21-24**).

(Continued Side Two)

**Can Someone Tell Me?**

**Does God consider elders a necessity for the Church or are they an option based on preference?**

**Titus 1:5** - For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that were wanting, and appoint elders in every city, as I gave thee charge;

**Acts 14:23** - And when they had appointed for them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they had believed.

**Colossians 3:17** - And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

### Things To Do List:

A small list of tasks for you,  
A little reminder of work to do,  
Each month will add something new,  
Check this list when you’re through.

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- Smile and say hello to a stranger.
- Help someone put on their coat.
- Tell your family you love them.
- Offer to do a chore for someone else.
- Pray for elders.
- Read Colossians
- Hand out a tract, CD, or DVD.

## “Gold Rush” (Cont.)

A number of treasure seekers enjoy success. Success, to a degree, depends on expectation. A little boy seeking to find neat rocks in a stream has great success. An individual seeking only a few flakes of gold instead of a fortune he can retire on also experiences occasional success. Yet, remember, spiritual success always accompanies those seeking heavenly treasure (**Matthew 6:33**).

Hard work most frequently characterizes the search for treasure. Gold miners experienced their share of this. It's filthy, dirty, muddy, dusty work which dries, tears, and toughens the skin. Gold miners do not sit in the shade waiting for gold to fall from trees. If they didn't engage in working, they likely would find themselves lacking the necessities to provide food to live on. Paul expressed the need for work in the lives of the Thessalonians (**2 Thessalonians 3:10-12**). Jesus and His apostles not only instructed Christians to engage in physical work, but goodness, benevolence, evangelism, visitation, and other actions which demonstrated their obedience to Him. Such work identifies those who love Christ (**John 14:15**); it also ensures reward (success) and not punishment (failure) (**Matthew 25:14-30**).

The proverb *“The poor man is hated even by his own neighbor, but the rich has many friends”* (**Proverbs 14:20**) comes to life for the gold miner. A great number of friends drawn by riches disappear with a changing of fortune. Gold miners found themselves in the predicament of wondering who they should trust. The treasure seeker finds persecution by the elements, strangers, enemies, or even his trusted friend (**Psalms 41:9**). When Jesus walked the earth teaching and proclaiming the eternal kingdom of God, He knew anyone professing His teaching and the treasure by them would be persecuted (**John 15:20**).

Most treasure seekers rushing off to find the joy of success abandon the cause after a period of time. Perhaps, they would not do the work necessary or despite their work they quit for finding little to no success. Again, they may quit the search for treasure due to abuses and persecution that arise from others. *“No treasure is worth such difficulty, there are better things!”* might be reasoned in their minds. Whatever the decision to walk away, the prize they desired fails to come to fruition. Spiritually, abandonment is demonstrated well in the parable of the sowers (**Matthew 13:3-23**). Common sense dictates that if you can do your best to find treasure and still fail, abandonment should be considered. However, when one desires to serve God, truly seek, and endure in their service of him until their end, not abandoning their efforts, nor giving up hope, they always receive the treasure they searched to find. There is no next best alternative (**Proverbs 15:6**).

Gold Rush! Discovery, joy, action, spreading of good news, success, hard work, persecution, and even abandonment can be expected in the search for treasure. However, man should not abandon the heavenly for the earthly (**Colossians 3:2, Luke 12:16-21, Proverbs 8:10**). The effort put forth toward seeking God despite enduring much trials proves more valuable than gold (**I Peter 1:7**). As when Mary sat listening to Jesus, despite the activities of Martha, let treasure seekers choose the *“good part”* which is everlasting (**Luke 10:38-42**) and that which moth and rust will not decay (**Mark 6:19-20**).

Footnote:

- (1) Condensed from full article “Gold Rush”; Travis Main; That Christian Website
- (2) Steve Sapienza; “In Peru, Gold Rush Leads to Mercury Contamination Concerns”; PBS.ORG; December 27, 2011