

## Treasurers in Heaven



This is Peter Manigault. (pronounced *man – i – go*) Peter Manigault (October 10, 1731 – November 12, 1773) was a Charleston, South Carolina attorney, plantation owner, slave owner and colonial legislator. He was the wealthiest man in the British North American colonies at the time of his death and owned hundreds of slaves. He was the son-in-law of Joseph Wragg, the largest slave trader of North America in the 1730s.

This man was real rich in the 1800's. But, by today's standards he was not rich. He did not have toothpaste or toilet paper. He did not have an I Phone or I Pad or a computer. No car! No plane! No television!

I knew a man who lived in a little one-bedroom house. He had a wife who was a great cook. He welded for a living. He had a super cool dog. He was always in a fantastic mood. Smiled all the time. Asked you questions about yourself with real interest. He listened well. He was truly happy and made others feel happy. When asked why a man like him with meager (very little) money and such a small house was so happy, he replied, "I have all my treasurers in heaven."

One day a banker let it slip that this man was worth millions of dollars. People thought he was crazy. Why live in this little house and have an old car? He could have a new top of the line car and a huge house with servants and cooks. Heaven? What about using your money while in the world on earth and get the best and the biggest stuff? People asked, "Wouldn't you like a new car?" "No," he said. I can keep that old jalopy running and it gets me from point A to point B pretty well. The same people also asked him if he wouldn't rather buy the brand-new monstrous house they were building on the water. Again, he said, "No, I happy in my house that I built 30 years ago."

They questioned him over and over again. Finally, he told them this. "The most famous man in history only had a basic robe and sandals to wear. He owned no property and did not seek wealth or fame. He had no toilet paper or toothpaste. He simply had love and compassion for all mankind. He also gave His life up to die for all mankind, so they could go to heaven. I want to be with Him someday. So, my treasures are in heaven. He is my treasure."

They shook their heads as they walked away and said, "He just doesn't get it!" Actually, they were the ones who did not get it. His treasures are laid up in heaven.

**Scripture:** Matthew 6: 20 – 21 <sup>20</sup> *But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

**Questions:**

1. Did Peter Manigault have the right kind of treasure?
2. Is toilet paper a treasure?
3. Is money a treasure?
4. Is a big house or new car the treasure we should seek?
5. The man who made a living welding had a lot of money, so why didn't he spend it on material things that others thought brought happiness?
6. What is the greatest treasure of all?

**Next Steps:**

Talk to your parents about things you need today for everyday healthy living. Then talk about how to get closer to Jesus and heavenly living.