

**"Store up spiritual treasure for yourselves,
as a good foundation for the future"**

1 Timothy 6:19.



A Nice Place to Retire

Read: John 14: 1-12

I once read a story about two men who had a dream of retiring in Florida. The first made wise investments and certain sacrifices. The second was more lax with his savings, preferring to indulge himself. When they retired, the first man realized his dreams, but the second did not.

In the gospel, Jesus says that his Father's house has many rooms and he is going there to prepare a place for us. Notice how Jesus does not say that our spot is guaranteed, just that there is one. At the end of our lives we will either be retiring in our heavenly home or we will not be. That outcome depends on how we invest in our spiritual lives now.

The Church teaches that there are two parts to salvation. First is objective salvation, which was won for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Second is subjective salvation, which is our part. This is dependent upon whether we choose to believe in Jesus and cooperate with God's grace. We are objectively saved, but our personal salvation depends upon our response to God's invitation. In other words, we know there is a retirement home for us, but we need to make the proper investments in order to achieve it.

In order to prepare for our heavenly home, we need to start investing in our relationship with Jesus. He is "the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6). It would be wise to make certain sacrifices in order to ensure that our relationship with Jesus develops. Sacrifice is difficult, but our long-term plans of retiring are worth the effort. This means prayer, scripture reading, parish involvement, and service are important. Small investment in the short term, make a big difference in the long term. After all, Jesus has already prepared a place for us. We just have to make sure we get there.