

INVESTING FOR ETERNITY

The Big idea: **LIVING ON PURPOSE** - As followers of Jesus, we should invest our lives for what matters most. – What you can do to make a significant impact on others around you. A sense of calling & investing in a cause.

To invest means to pay something in the present to have benefit in the future. To put resources: money, effort, time, etc. into something in the present to return a profit later. Expats in the UAE- working to invest in their future.

The world of investment opportunities. In the investment world there are experts who read the signs of economic prospects and can advise you on how to put funds in the most profitable investments. EG Depending on who you follow you can either prosper or get ruined. It is good to get the most reliable input and advice to let the best and the lasting results. The best investment advisor for long-term eternal results is Jesus and is found in the scripture.

While our **faith in Christ** determines our **eternal destiny, our investment, in terms of behavior and activities** in this life, determines our **eternal rewards**. The Scriptures tell us that this life lays the foundation upon which the quality of our eternal existence is built. Eternity, beyond death and the grave, will hold for us what we have invested there during our life of earth

Matthew 6:19-21

- ✓ **Principle #1** **The most important identity in this life is our citizenship in the Kingdom of God.** Expats – passports - UAE - ID

Our fundamental identity is as “citizens of heaven” Phil. 3:20-21, we are **pilgrims, strangers, aliens**, working far from real home. (1 Pet. 1:1 (*exiles*), Hebrews 11:13 *strangers and exiles on earth*))

- ✓ (Colossians 3:2-3) The fundamental instruction for the believer is to “...*set your minds on things above, not on earthly things*”³ *For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.*”

Things that we can see, hear, touch, feel and taste have become as if they were the only real world. We become so attached to the present world that we live and work as if this is our only real existence and final destination. The Scripture tells us this is not the ultimate reality. We waste our resources by investing only in that which is temporary and will last only in this life. A Christian perspective understands that this life is **the preface, not the book**. It is the **preliminaries not the main event**. Tuning up period, not the concert.

- ✓ **Principle #2** **After death everyone will certainly be judged and evaluated for their life work here on earth.**

Hebrews 9:27 is a copy of every man’s future itinerary after life on earth:

1. Death → 2. Judgment. Every person, society and religion has an inner awareness that good deserves reward and evil deserves penalty and that ultimately we should get what we deserve. (The Bible reinforces the expectation of accountability and judgment. Jeremiah 17:10 Acts 17:31 1 Peter 4:5. What is it that will be evaluated and judged? Our works are what we have done with our resources – time, energy, talents, money, possessions. As believers in Christ, we will not be condemned and punished for our sins because Christ completely paid for that at Calvary. We are justified before Him. But all will nevertheless give an account to God for their work on earth. Some will receive rewards, and some will lose or forfeit rewards.

Principle #3 **When we invest our resources now in God’s kingdom, we will reap the benefits later in eternity.**

Two Investment opportunities/accounts: Matthew 6:19-20

1. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy and thieves break in

But...

2. **Do store up** for yourselves treasures in heaven where moth and rust do not destroy, and thieves do not break in

Jesus does not forbid investing or storing up treasures, but to store or **accumulate them in the right place, not the wrong place.** We all have investment resources that can be used profitably in this life. (Money, possessions, time, health, talents, giftings, **the GOSPEL**). The question is **how and for whom** are we using these?

Are we investing in that which will serve us and others **only in this life here and now** or that which serve God's Kingdom and will have a lasting impact?

Two Choices

1. a life used up on the pursuit of earthly possessions and pleasure on earth

OR

2. a life invested in the pursuing kingdom goals and benefits.

Jesus: Resources invested only in earthly treasures, will not have value in the coming Kingdom. **Either it leaves while we live or we leave it when we die.** Psalm 46:16-17. Accumulated material wealth, possessions or temporal pleasures won't stand the test of time, they are a poor investment for eternity. Rockefeller: "How much did he leave? "EVERYTHING". Sooner or later your treasure will either wear out before you do, or you will wear out before your treasure does. Either way it will be lost to you. The junkyard: "Our earthly treasures simply do not have the DNA of eternity built in to them." **You can't take anything with you, but you can send a lot on ahead.** Whatever treasure we store up in heaven will be waiting for us there. If we invest in heavenly treasures they will have lasting value beyond this life. Hebrews 6:10, 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

The Bible: only 3 investments that have eternal value & will really last God's Kingdom, His Word and His people. **God's Eternal Kingdom:** Already present, but with the coming of Christ will usher in the Kingdom in full measure. Eternal Kingdom. In this kingdom we will have Positions of authority and service In this life we have the chance to align ourselves with and participate in the direction and purposes of His kingdom. Philippians 3:7-8 We pray, "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven". "Every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord". Time to get on board ...

God's Eternal Word: *The grass withers & the flowers fade but the Word of the Lord stands forever. Heaven & earth my pass away but My word remains forever*

The Scriptures reveal the universal plans & purposes of God and how to fulfill. The Bible gives us words of eternal life, words that help us experience the abundant life of God's Kingdom. As we read & meditate upon the words of Scripture – we receive the life of God.

God's Eternal People People matter to God J. came to seek and to save the lost. It is only God's people who have the promise of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ and will receive immortality and last forever. We have the incredible privilege to invest in the lives of people bringing them into the Kingdom through our witness to Jesus Christ. Our ministry life has been built around the Gospel and making disciples. Be with Jesus, Become like Jesus and do what Jesus did. Everything else will perish and so nothing else has eternal value. Heavenly returns (rewards) are tangible dividends we can gain by how we have invested our God-given resources in this lifetime on earth. Colossians 3:23-24, 1 Peter 1:4. These rewards are an inheritance that...will never spoil, perish, or fade away". **God will be pleased, others will be blessed and we will be rewarded.**

CONCLUSION: The Bible makes clear that the most important business in this life is to prepare for the next. With every heartbeat bringing each of us closer to eternity, we have a choice:

1. a lifetime devoted to the pursuit of self-promotion and self-service in here

OR

2. a life invested in the pursuit of kingdom goals and benefits. In serving Him, God offers us the opportunity not only to work for Him but also to experience a down payment of joy – the delight that comes **today** in doing what we know God

<p>John Wesley said, "I value all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity" Jim Elliot said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." He wanted to gain that which would last.</p>

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wants and anticipating hearing him say to us **tomorrow**. “Well done!” LIVING ON PURPOSE: Investing in what matters most.

Phil 3:²⁰ *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

Hebrews 11:13 *All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.*

Jeremiah 17:10 *“I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.”*

Acts 17:31 *For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”*

1 Peter 4:5 *But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*

Matt 6:19-20 *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Psalm 46:16-17 *Do not be overawed when a man grows rich, when the splendor of his house increased; for he will take nothing with him when he dies; his splendor will not descend with him.*

Heb. 6:10 *God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.*

Rev. 14:13 *Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.”*

1 Tim 6:17-19 *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ **In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age**, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

Philippians 3: 7-11 *But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss, for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things*

Colossians 3:23-24 *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*