

Investing For Eternity

2 Corinthians 9: 1-15

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Faith Promise Missions is really just a term that describes the way in which we give to missionaries over and above our regular giving. This is God's program for supporting His work on other fields where the need is great.

Let us examine some insights about making investments with our money that will pay eternal dividends. *Matthew 6: 19-21* says, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Every Christian Must Invest For Eternity

1. Because of the Priority of Investing (1-4)

A. We are to Prioritize the Kingdom of God.

Matt 6:31-33 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Said the Robin to the Sparrow:

"I should really like to know,
Why these anxious human beings,
Rush about and worry so."

Said the Sparrow to the Robin:

"Friend, I think that it must be
That they have no Heavenly Father,
Such as cares for you and me."

Appl: It is expected that people who do not know the Lord and how to depend upon Him, would make it their chief priority to seek food and clothing.

As Christians, we have knowledge of our Father in heaven; we know that He will provide for our needs. We should know that we don't have to be anxious for anything. Our proper priority should be to Seek first His kingdom; seek first to be righteous, and to desire more than anything His blessings upon our lives.

To respond with eternity in mind insures that *all necessary things* will be given to us. The Lord has control over all things, and He can give us what we need, when we need it. Don't forget that God knows what is best for us better than we do.

B. We are to Prioritize the Value of a Soul

Mark 8:34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Appl: Property is lost when it is consumed, mislaid, wasted, sunk in the ocean and we no longer have use of it. When people are "lost," God has lost the use of them. Lost people are miserable wanderers from God. They are lost to righteousness, to happiness and to heaven. The Son of man came to seek and to save lost people. He came in search of them, he found them; he redeemed them.

Lost people are the great object of Christ's life; and, though they may be obscure and little in the eye of the world, they cannot be ignored by saved people. The Son of God sought them, shed His blood for them, and died for them. Jesus came to save them by giving his own life a ransom, that they might be redeemed and saved.

Ill: A black man rose in a meeting to give his testimony to the saving grace of God. He told how the Lord had won his heart and given him deliverance from the guilt and power of sin. He spoke of Christ and His work but said nothing of any efforts of his own. At the end of the man's testimony, the leader of the meeting stood and said, "Our brother has only told us of the Lord's part in his salvation. When I was converted, there was a whole lot I had to do myself before I could expect the Lord to do anything for me. Brother, didn't you do your part first before God did his?" The black man was on his feet in an instant and replied, "Yes, sah, Ah clear done forgot. Ah didn't tell you 'bout my part, did I? Well, Ah did my runnin' away from God as fast as my sins could carry me. That was my part. An' God took aftah me till He run me down. That was His part." (Dr. Harry A. Ironside)

"The Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost."

2. Because of the Purpose of Investing (v.5)

A. When we invest for eternity, we are an example to other churches.

2 Cor 8:1-5 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

B. When we invest for eternity, we are defeating covetousness. (v. 5)

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Col 3:1-2 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

III: One day Abraham Lincoln was out walking with his two young boys. Both the boys were crying and squalling loudly as they walked. A passerby asked Mr. Lincoln what was wrong with the boys. "Just the same thing that is wrong with the world!" Answered Lincoln. "I have three walnuts and each boy wants two."

3. Because of the Promise For Investing (6-15)

A. There is a promise contained in the sowing of the harvest. (v. 6)

Gal 6:7-9 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

1. You will reap *what* you sow. (that shall he also reap)
2. You will reap in a *different season* than you sow. (in due season)
3. You will reap *more* than you sow. (abundantly above all that we ask or think)

B. There is a promise of blessing from the Lord of the harvest. (vs. 7-15)

1. God blesses *personal* giving. "every man"
2. God blesses *planned* giving. "as he purposeth"
3. God blesses *persistent* giving. "so let him give"
4. God blesses *positive* giving. "not grudgingly"

C. There is a promise of abundance from the Lord of the harvest. (v. 8)

1. All sufficiency (v. 8)
2. Bread for your food (v. 10)
3. Multiplication of seed sown (v. 10)
4. Increase of the fruits of your righteousness (souls) (v. 10)
5. Thanksgiving to God (v. 11-12)

4. Conclusion

Charles Haddon Spurgeon has said, "Never try to save money that is supposed to go to God; such money will simply spoil the rest. Giving to God is no loss; it is putting your investment into the best bank." Giving is true having. An inscription on an old gravestone said of the dead man: "What I spent I had; what I saved I lost; what I gave to God I have."