

Investment

Today I want to talk about Investment, what we invest our time, our finance and our lives into.

As it's a topic which includes the forbidden mention of money I thought I would break us in slowly with a couple of jokes...

Who was the greatest male financier in the Bible? **Noah** - he was **floating his stock** while everyone was in **liquidation**.

Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible? **Pharaoh's daughter**; she went down to the **bank of the Nile** and drew out a **little prophet**.

So to begin with I want to explore provision, provision comes before investment. You have to have something provided to then have something to invest.

John 1:3-4 NIV³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

It was through Jesus that we were created, it was through Jesus that we were brought into new life. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for the mess ups which separate us from our Holy and righteous God, He died in our place so that we can have life now in intimate relationship with God and into eternity.

King David said:

1 Chronicles 29:13-14 NIV¹³ Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.¹⁴ "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

The Apostle Paul quotes the OT saying:

Romans 11:35-36 GW³⁵ Who gave the Lord something which the Lord must pay back?³⁶ Everything is from him and by him and for him. Glory belongs to him forever! Amen!

James said:

James 1:17 NIV¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Everything we need will be provided by God, Jesus even teaches us to to pray "give us today our daily bread".

Philippians 4:19 NIV¹⁹ And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

So do we get it - everything we have is provided by God, even our abilities and our health which allows us to work and earn money comes from God!

BUT WE HAVE A CHOICE!

What are we going to do with God's provision in our lives? Both in our time and energy and also with our finance?

"Money is really worth no more than as it can be used to accomplish the Lord's work. Life is worth as much as it is spent for the Lord's service." George Müller

There is a saying, you show me your bank statement and what you spend your money on and I will show you your God.

The Bible speaks about money a lot, nearly 25% of Jesus words deal with biblical stewardship. WHY - because what our attitude is towards money and what we use it on can either lead us toward God or away from Him.

Matthew 6:24 makes it clear that the 'love of money' is a significant idol we face.

Matthew 6:24 NIV²⁴ "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

You may think - but I don't love the actual money?

But what about what the money buys? What you invest in?

What are we investing our money, our time and our energy in?

God has placed some great advice in the Bible as to how to have the right attitude towards investment of what he has provided to us, this is yes, with regards to money, but also in regards to time and energy:

1. What we invest in is important to God. “Just as you excel in everything else... in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness ...see that you also excel in the grace of giving” ([2 Corinthians 8:7](#))

2. Give willingly. “For if the willingness is there, your gift is acceptable according to what you have, not according to what you don’t have.” ([2 Corinthians 8:12](#)).

3. Give joyfully. “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” ([2 Corinthians 9:7](#)).

4. Give generously. “They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service...” ([2 Corinthians 8:3-4](#)). As a Church we have decided that Generosity is one of our values - we give away 20% of our income.

5. Give expectantly. “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and whoever sows generously will reap generously... And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” ([2 Corinthians 9:6, 8](#)).

“Abundance isn't God's provision for me to live in luxury. It's his provision for me to help others live. God entrusts me with his money not to build my kingdom on earth, but to build his kingdom in heaven”. Randy Alcorn

6. The Bible teaches that giving a proportion of our income to finance the work of the church is important. ([1 Corinthians 16:2](#)). As a Church we do not take up a collection, this is because we don’t want knee jerk reactions to an offertory plate or guests to feel obligated, as a church we do need money to run, we are not funded by a denomination. To hire a venue, pay insurances, refreshments etc all cost money, the church can only afford to pay 48% of Jen and my part time wages, pray supporters out-with the church who believe in what we are doing give to the church to finance the other 52%. Currently Jen and I only get paid 33hrs between us - we gift many more hours than this to the church.

7. Give regularly. "... every Lord’s Day...you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering...” ([1 Corinthians 16:2](#)).

8. Give when you first get paid, rather than from what’s left at the end! Honour

the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops ([Proverbs 3:9](#))

Some people may ask- how much should I give?

Malachi 3:10 NIV ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

We however, as Christians do not live under the law but under grace. Based on Jesus’ praise of the widow’s sacrificial offering in [Mark 12:41- 44](#) of giving her all. Our response should be to see 10% as a starting place. The key thing however, is not in the amount but in our attitude in seeking God’s will and asking Him with open hands.

“Tithing isn't the ceiling of giving; it's the floor. It's not the finish line of giving; it's just the starting blocks. Tithes can be the training wheels to launch us into the mind-set, skills, and habits of grace giving”. Randy Alcorn

ENDING

Today I want to challenge us about first of all:

Are we recognising that everything we have, our lives - time, energy and money comes from God, He provides and we are stewards of His provision.

As stewards of God’s provision, are we investing our time energy and money in God’s kingdom or our own kingdom?

Matthew 6:19–21 NIV ¹⁹ “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.