

# CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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## What Is A Good Investment?

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I am often asked that question as I travel and speak representing BBC FOUNDATION. There are many ways to answer, and when I talk about investments, people usually listen because many are looking for a better way to earn money. They want to know whether they should put their money in CDs, treasury notes, stocks, real estate, or some other form of investment.

Jesus Christ had some investment advice for His disciples that is still good for today, and it may shock you. In Matthew 6, Christ told His disciples “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (v. 19-21 NKJV).

After hearing Christ’s investment advice, we might say, “He isn’t talking about worldly wealth, He is talking about doing good deeds.” Jesus did say this in the context of teaching His disciples to do good to please God. But in the book of Luke, Jesus gives the same investment advice, and He begins by telling his disciples, “Sell your possessions and give to charity” (Luke 12:33 NASV). To better understand what Christ was teaching, we need to understand how God sees our possessions.

God sees our earthly investments as risky. Jesus’ advice was pretty clear: We should invest our worldly wealth in the Lord’s work rather than in the things of this world. He was teaching His disciples that when they give to the Lord, they are building investments in heaven – investments that are far superior to the disciples’ investments on earth. Heavenly investments are secure – they cannot be destroyed or stolen, and no one needs to be concerned with how the markets are doing.

God’s perspective is eternal. When we give to the Lord’s work, we are investing in God’s kingdom – an eternal investment. The investments we make on earth are temporal. Again in Luke, Jesus said, “Take heed and

beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Luke 12:15 NKJV).

Man keeps score in the game of life by how much wealth he possesses, but God doesn’t. In God’s economy, wealth and possessions are not something to be hoarded but, rather, to be used as a tool for the Lord. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians that Christ was so committed to God’s kingdom that He gave up His riches so that you and I could become rich (2 Cor. 8:9). If Christ invested His riches in God’s kingdom, then so should His disciples.

When the rich young ruler came to Christ, Jesus told him to sell all that he had, give it to the poor, and follow Him (Matt. 19:16-22). The rich young ruler walked away disappointed because he was attached to his wealth and possessions, and he was unwilling to part with it – unwilling to invest it in the Kingdom of God.

Sadly, many of today’s disciples are unwilling to invest in the kingdom that will last forever. They are caught up in trying to win the game of life by having more wealth and possessions. Their security is in the things they possess rather than in the Lord. If we truly want to be committed disciples of Jesus Christ, then we must be willing to obey our Master and invest our riches in God’s kingdom. Obedience requires looking at all that we possess and asking ourselves, “How am I using it for God’s kingdom?” “Am I using my house for the Lord?” “My automobile?” “My income?” “My investment?” “My time?” “My talents?” Begin asking yourself these questions, and you will begin seeing ways you can invest in heaven!

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