

“Investing in the Future”
1 Timothy 6:17-19
(Preached at Trinity, October 24, 2021)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Paul's focus in this chapter has been upon the false teachers who were plaguing the Church of Ephesus. This has been the underlying theme of the entire epistle.
1 Timothy 6:3-5 NAU - "If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, ⁴ he is conceited *and* understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain."
2. On one hand, these false teachers were given over to a false ascetism, the outward denying themselves of worldly pleasures.
1 Timothy 4:3 NAU - "*men* who forbid marriage *and* advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth."
3. On the other hand, thinking outward actions reap material gain, they lusted after more worldly riches. Paul warned of the danger of seeking wealth.
1 Timothy 6:9-10 NAU - "But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."
4. Paul instructed Timothy:
1 Timothy 6:11-12 NAU - "But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."
5. Now as Paul continues with **Verses 17-19**, he gives instruction to those who do have material wealth. Wealth can blind and deceive. Wealth can cause us to dwell on this present world without regard to what is to come.
6. There is much talk today about investing in the future. And never have there been more opportunities for investment in future planning. There are retirement plans. There are treasury bills, corporate bonds, common stock and mutual funds. There seems to be an endless line of planners and advisors seeking to invest your money, each promising the best rate of return.
The problem with all of these is that they place a very limited parameter on the future. They all focus upon a future that is set by the bounds of time.

7. All investment plans are based on the same principle and are dependent upon the same thing. Surplus wealth. And wealth is measured by the increase of worldly goods. Paul describes this **Verse 17** – "Instruct those who are rich in this present world"
8. As we saw earlier in this chapter, there is nothing wrong with having wealth All comes from God, "who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy." But there are certain dangers which accompany worldly riches.
- A. There is the danger of becoming conceited—highminded, prideful and arrogant. Those with wealth sometimes think themselves better than those without. Those with wealth sometimes are proud of their ability to acquire it
- B. There is the danger of trusting in our wealth instead of God
Verse 17 - "to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches"
9. There is something else about worldly wealth – it is all uncertain.
Verse 17 – "the uncertainty riches"
- A. They can suffer natural loss or riches can be stolen
Matthew 6:19 NAU - "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal."
- B. There are few things as uncertain as the economy. Investors know well how volatile the stock market can be.
- C. The possessor of the wealth can die. All wealth simply passes from one hand to the next.
Luke 12:20 NAU - "You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and *now* who will own what you have prepared?"
- D. In reality, all worldly investments are just an illusion. They will all slip from our grasp and disappear. Men are fighting and lusting and striving for something that they cannot keep.
1 Timothy 6:7 NAU - "For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either."
10. But in **Verse 19** – Paul speaks of another type of investment. He calls it "the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed."
- A. In **Verse 16** Paul describes Christ as One "Who alone possesses immortality" This is because only God has existed from all eternity. We derive our immortality from Him.
- B. All human beings have been given an existence that shall never end. The issue for us is the nature of that existence. That is the only investment that has any true value.
11. The question before you this morning is, what are you laying up in store for yourself? Are you laboring for an illusion that will disappear or are you laying up the riches of eternal life?
This morning I want to talk to you about your future. I want to talk about your investments.

- I. Have you invested everything in Christ?
- A. Worldly investment counselors always talk about diversification – hedging your bets. Protecting yourself from unforeseen drops in a particular fund.
1. Worldly religious men pass along the same counsel
They insist there are many ways to come to God. God reveals Himself in different ways. Muhammad, Buddha, Krishna. They cannot imagine someone who has been faithful to another religion being rejected
 2. Jesus is the only way.
John 14:6 NAU - "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."
Acts 4:12 NAU - "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."
 3. Christianity is a narrow way, we must be narrow minded.
- B. Coming to Christ demands that you divest yourself of everything else
Matthew 19:21-22 NAU - "Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go *and* sell your possessions and give to *the* poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." ²² But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property."
Luke 14:33 NAU - "So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions."
Matthew 13:45-46 NAU - "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, ⁴⁶ and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."
- C. Paul said that when he met Christ, nothing else had value
Philippians 3:7-8 NAU - "But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,"
- II. What are you storing up - "storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future"
- What things from this life survive the grave? These are truly the only things that are important
- A. Our relationship with our Savior – Ultimately, this is the only thing that matters. All of the good works in the world without Christ will be worthless
- B. Our service for Christ – our good works
Verse 18 – "*Instruct them* to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,"
1. Only those works done for His glory will endure – **Verse 19** – "storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future"

2. Every man will be called upon to give account according to what he has done – all will be remembered
Revelation 22:12 NAU - "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done."
 3. All who commit to the service of our Lord will be called upon to give account.
 - a. Teachers - **James 3:1 NAU** - "Let not many *of you* become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment."
 - b. Pastors are continually aware of this
Hebrews 13:17 KJV – "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you."
- C. The souls we win for Christ
1. For some, their work will be consumed by treating the Gospel carelessly
1 Corinthians 3:11-15 NAU - "For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴ If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."
 2. Paul always treasured the thought of souls in glory as the result of his labors
Galatians 4:11 NAU - " I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain."
2 Corinthians 11:2 NAU - " For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin."
 3. Paul saw his converts as his crown
Philippians 4:1 NAU - "Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long *to see*, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved."
 4. You may not know now how many you are affecting. You may not know how many are coming to Christ as the result of you labors – but God knows, and it will be revealed.

Conclusion:

1. This morning, take an inventory of your investments. What do you have to show for your life? What will you take with you? What will endure the grave? How are you increasing the talents the Master gave you?
2. If you find yourself lacking it is never too late. While there is life there is hope and opportunity. You can begin today to build your eternal portfolio.

Philippians 3:13-14 NAU - "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."