

God's Investment Strategies

There is a story about a dying man who asked his three sons to honor his memory after his passing by placing a thousand dollars in his coffin when he died. Prior to the funeral, the first son slipped an envelope into the casket. The second son did likewise. The third son followed and dropped in a slip of paper. After the funeral, the first two sons asked their brother what he had placed in the coffin. He replied, "I wrote a check."

There are no check-cashing privileges in heaven. No U-Hauls follow the hearse to the cemetery. As the old saying goes, "You can't take it with you."

No, we can't take it with us, but we can send it on ahead! That's Paul's message in 1 Timothy: "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age . . ."

(1 Timothy 6:18-19).

Paul invites us to think of our giving as an investment plan. We typically think about investment strategies for the money we keep for ourselves. But Paul reminds us that there is also a divine investment guide. God's investment guide goes like this:

- Give to the needy the time, talent, and treasure you want to invest in heaven.
- Give to God's kingdom what you want to keep beyond the grave.
- Keep for yourself what you don't care to see again on the other side of eternity.
- Estate planning is one way Christians can make healthy investments for eternity. Many Christians live without a Will. Even fewer Christians have considered how wise decisions about their estate can provide substantial kingdom investments now and in the future. If you haven't already discovered the remarkable options open to you, now is the time to do so.

One approach to estate planning is to add another "child" to your Will— a "Child Named Charity." Many have discovered that this enables them to give a final gift to causes they have supported throughout the years. In so doing, they discover they are able to "take it with them" after all!

"He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord" (Prov. 19:17). Be assured that God's credit rating is A+. Our loans to God are guaranteed. God's bank has never had a problem with liquidity; God's collateral is as extensive as the universe itself.

How's your heavenly bank account doing?

Source: "The Joy of Generosity" devotional series developed by Barnabas Foundation and available at www.barnabasfoundation.com; adapted from the HomeLink series written by Pastor Bob Heerspink and released by Faith Alive Christian Resources (www.faithaliveresources.com).



I am interested in more information about creating or updating my Will or Estate Plan.

I would like more information about how I might include a "Child Named Charity" in my Estate Plan.

Name _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____ E-mail _____

Reply with the enclosed envelope or call our friends at Barnabas Foundation toll-free (888) 448-3040

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