

INVESTING FOR THE LONG RUN

1 Timothy 6: 17-19

IBCZ, 28th September 2014

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OVERVIEW

- Background/ context of the letter/ text
- A warning to the rich
- A new currency
- A new investment strategy
- A risks and performance review
- Practical investment tips
- Take home points

1 TIMOTHY 6: 17-19

17: As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

18: They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,

19: thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. (ESV)

1 TIMOTHY 6: 17-19

Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.

(The Message)

BEING RICH

Epicurus said: “The secret of contentment is not to add to a man’s possession but to take away from his desire. You’re rich when you’re content.”
(Epicurus)

“But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.” (1 Tim 6:6-7)

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DO NOT BE PROUD

Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth.
Deuteronomy 8:17-18

QUESTION

What single factor makes it most likely that you end up in poverty or a wealthy society?

DANGER OF MONEY

- It can lure you to independence from God
- It can create a desire for more
- It can focus our minds on the temporal, instead of the eternal things
- It can lure you into sin

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INVESTMENT SENSE

- **Not take money to future residence**
- **New assets are safe**
- **Returns are eternal**
- **Research shows „double dividend“**

RISK DISCLOSURE

- “For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw — each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved. (1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

INVESTMENT TIPPS

- Partner with a charitable organization
- Use your talents to serve people
- Volunteer where needed
- Serve faithfully at your local church
- Pray for the sick and suffering
- Help your neighbors
- Have an open house

TAKE HOME POINTS

- Paul urges us not be bogged down or too comfortable with our earthly treasures.
- Paul proposes an investment strategy for the future – transferring assets from this world to the next – the new transferrable currency are “good deeds”
- He urges us to prepare for our next phase: eternal life – our stewardship in this world will determine our position/opportunities in our future space.

TAKE HOME POINTS

- These good deeds do not help with the residency status in heaven – Residency is a gift.
- Our good works will be tested
- He does not want us to miss the best “in Christ” –restored value and identity and share life with Christ
- Enjoy “doing good” – you were designed for it.