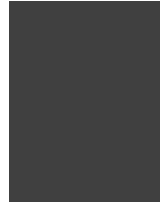


INVESTING FOR LIFE **SERMON NOTES**

Week 2 November 6, 2022
"Christianity and Wealth"
Luke 12:15; Genesis 28:20-22;
Malachi 3:7-10; Mark 12:43



I. Introduction

- A. When it comes to financial health and finding joy and freedom, we begin with a question "What really _____ to me?"
- B. Giving 1.0 is giving directly to something that will help _____.
- C. _____ giving (giving 2.0) is giving so that something that's bad, never happens to begin with.

II. Robbing God

- A. Beginning in the Old Testament, God's people observed the practice of giving some portion of what they had to _____.
- B. Malachi was a prophet who brought a message from God to the nation of Israel about their giving _____ to God.
- C. Malachi 3:10 reflects a principle of putting God _____ in our finances.

III. Developing a Plan for Prevention of Giving

- A. The system that helps us put God first in our finances is _____, save, and live.
- B. Throughout the Scripture, the Bible talks in terms of _____, not dollars when it comes to giving.
- C. The church is the _____ of the world, because Jesus is the hope of the world. So what a privilege it is to give to the local church.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *November 7-12, 2022*

INTRODUCTION

Some people get uncomfortable when pastors talk about giving money to the local church. They do not believe the church should ask for money. Some people see giving to the local church as an obligation of Christians that funds the budget. And when it comes to giving to the local church, it's hard to measure the immediate impact of your giving. So what is the importance of giving to the local church?

Monday: Haggai 1:1-15

The Book of Haggai tells us to put first things first in our lives. It was written to people, like us, who would have told you that God must be first. They believed that; we believe that. But, they had drifted into a way of life where their belief in God was not reflected in the way they were living. Where do you need to make corrections to put God first in your life?

Tuesday: Mark 12:41-44

Jesus said that most people gave out of their wealth, their extra, but the poor widow gave out of her poverty and put in everything, all she had to live on. Are you a percentage giver or dollar amount giver? Based upon this passage what do you think God is more concerned with?

Wednesday: Malachi 3:7-10; 2 Corinthians 9:6, 7

What choices are you currently making with respect to your giving? What changes, if any, do you believe God is calling you to make in your giving patterns? Make plans to carry out any changes you believe God wants you to make.

Thursday: I Timothy 6:17-19

We have said that generosity requires having a plan to give to the local church. During the message Pastor Eric said that "giving to a local church is prevention giving." You can't always measure the results of your giving, but it is having an impact in the lives of those who are adapting Biblical principles as the result of the local church. Do you agree or disagree with this analysis? Why or why not?

Friday: Proverbs 11:23-28

The Hebrew sages who wrote and collected these proverbs were gripped by the quest for "wisdom." But they saw clearly that what seems like "wisdom" to our human minds can differ dramatically from the true wisdom about life that comes from God. We can find peace with our finances when we learn to give first, save second, and consume the rest. What are some obstacles that keep you from doing this?

MOVING FORWARD

The church is the hope of the world, because Jesus is the hope of the world. And what an awesome privilege it is to take a percentage of anything he allows me to manage and to place it back into a local church that's getting the job done in a community, both for eternity and in this life. That is the importance of giving to the local church. To put God first in our finances we need to give, save, and live in that order.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) matters, B) immediately, C) Prevention. IIA) God, IIB) leftovers, C) first. IIIA) give, B) percentages, C) hope.