



Investing For Eternity

“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal” (Matthew 6:20)

VCM-SOTM27

23 May 2018

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Matthew 6:19-21).

In this passage, Jesus taught about the wisdom to live with eternity in view. To this end we ought to learn from Moses' wise prayer “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom” (Psalms 90:12).

While we are not to live in worry and anxiety, the need to make provision for the future is clearly captured in scriptures such as:

- 1) Proverbs 6:6-8 “Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: 7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, 8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest”.
- 2) Proverbs 10:5 “He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame”.

In today's world, it is considered prudent to save and / or invest for retirement so as to be able to maintain a reasonable quality of life in the later years. However, we must bear in mind that there is eternal life after death, and it takes greater wisdom to make provision for it. Drawing our attention to this, the Holy Scriptures declares:

- 1) 1 Corinthians 15:19 “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable”.
- 2) Mark 8:36-37 36 “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Jesus used a poignant parable in Luke 16:19-26 to illustrate the quality of life after death “There

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21).

was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence”.

In another parable (Luke 12:15-21) Jesus illustrated the folly of “... he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God”.

The pathway to investing for eternity is to heed Solomon's admonition in Ecclesiastes 12:1-13 “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.... 13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man”.

The earth is the stage to prepare for the quality of life in eternity, through the investment of our time, talents and treasures in God's kingdom. Make the best use of it! If you were to transition from earth to eternity today, what would your quality of life there look like?