

Spiritual How-to's
Making Lasting Investments
Debbie Chaney

INTRO. How are your investments panning out? Today's financial market is telling us this:

- The average 401K plunged \$10,000 in the 1st Qtr. Of 2022
- Inflation rate in May was 8.6%, the highest since 1981
- S&P 500 is down 3.3% through the first 184 days of this year
- commodities are collapsing due to oil prices
- gold, silver & crypto are getting crushed
- home prices are collapsing because of record high mortgage rates

How are your investments doing?

I. We live in a consumer driven society. It is called a **CONSUMER CULTURE.**

A. It is defined as: "a culture that is centered around the consumption of goods rather than other things, like religion or values."

B. In this culture marketing experts **commandeer our attention** with slogans and commercials

1. Seeking our **impulse buying** by providing **shopping opportunities** everywhere
2. Driving our **focus to things and the money** it takes to get them

C. Our consumer society has even **distorted the way we view & treat others**

D. We seem to **never be happy with what we have**

1. We don't fix things anymore we just buy new things
2. We look for **social validation** by comparing with other consumers

E. We tend to **focus on material values & ignore the real ones**, the real value in life.

F. We see Jesus so ahead of His time when He taught his disciples about where they make their investments. **Let's look at it in 3 parts.**

I. PART 1 - Matthew 6:19-21 – Your heart will always pursue what you value

A. If you value & invest in treasures on earth, **that material wealth will eventually rust, decay and lose it's value.**

1. Just like we saw in our opening statistics about the financial market
2. But even if our wealth withstands the markets, we cannot take it with us when we die. **The best we can do here on earth is to leave it for another.**

B. Instead, value and invest in heavenly treasures that cannot be stolen, will never rust & decay or lose their value.

1. Eternal investments like: loving others, giving \$\$ to causes, issues and needs that build up people in faith
2. Sharing the gospel with others, discipling others, increasing God's kingdom here, giving \$\$ to our local church are eternal investments

C. What we do with our \$\$ determines where our heart is, what we really value.

II. PART 2 – Matthew 6:22-23 – Focusing on money clouds our vision.

A. **What you see lights your life.** Your eye is the lamp of your body.

1. A healthy eye, seeing beyond the material world & investing in the spiritual world, will bring revelation to your life. Generosity will bless you.
2. A bad eye, one focused on money, fills your life with darkness – being stingy & greedy.
3. Our eye reveals the quality of our inner life.

B. **Having spiritual eyes to see the value and importance of heavenly investments,** eternal investments and stockpiles in heaven will fill your life here on earth with vision, light, peace, comfort, joy and fulfillment.

III. PART 3 - Matthew 6:24 – You cannot serve God and money.

A. **No one can serve 2 masters.**

1. A slave is the sole property on 1 master
2. A slave gives that master his whole service
3. When you're a slave, you are working for someone else. They are controlling you.

B. **If money is our master, we are working for money.** It controls us. We are it's slave.

C. **If God is our master, money works for us.** We use it wisely and invest it in eternal projects, issues, causes and people.

D. As believers, mammon, **the god of money seeks to grip us.** In fact, it seeks to grip everyone.

1. **Our consumer culture is nothing more than mammon demanding his servants allegiance.**

2. We cannot worship the true God while enslaved to the god of money

IV. So what do we do?

A. **We stop hoarding for ourselves. Matthew 6:19 TPT**

1. Cancel that Prime subscription, stop impulse buying
2. Get a grip on undisciplined buying

B. **Begin investing in eternal causes**

1. Give \$\$ regularly to your church
2. Give \$\$ to advancement of the gospel
3. Give \$\$ to building people up spiritually

C. Being a generous giver to heavenly causes breaks the power of mammon over you and releases light into your life to see more clearly.

D. Just as an idea – here's a peek into my current **eternal investment portfolio-**

- my local church gets my monthly tithe then offerings above that for various issues or freewill offerings
- I support these organizations monthly:

Harvest Crusade, Int'l Fellowship of Christians and Jews, American Bible Society, Operation Underground Railroad (child trafficking), Every Home For Christ

- poor and indigent on the streets

E. These things have eternal value, with no chance of rust, moths, or theft.

I am not wealthy by earth's standards, but I hope to be stockpiling heavenly riches that will last for eternity.

F. How bout you? Are you making investments that will last forever?

Or, as the prophet Haggai says - are you planting much and harvesting little, eating but don't have enough, drink but are not full, clothed but are not warm. And earning wages only to put them into a bag with holes. Haggai 1:6

We have a choice: earthly investments of eternal investments.

Sources: 11.22

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