

**Victory Over Sin Sermon Series**  
**Lesson 7 – The Greatest Return On Investment**  
**Bible Sermon Notes by Pastor O. Cary Rodgers, Jr**

"There exist in these last days evils similar to those that threatened the prosperity of the early church; and the teachings of the apostle John on these points should be carefully heeded. 'You must have charity,' is the cry heard everywhere, especially from those who profess sanctification. But true charity is too pure to cover an unconfessed sin. While we are to love the souls for whom Christ died, we are to make no compromise with evil. We are not to unite with the rebellious and call this charity. God requires His people in this age of the world to stand for the right as unflinchingly as did John in opposition to soul-destroying errors." Ellen White, Acts of Apostles, p. 554.3

**For the last three lessons we have studied eight steps to have a decisive victory over sin and worldliness. Today we are going to explore the ninth step.**

**What is the ninth step that will assure you total victory over sin?**

**9- Keep your mind focused on Heavenly things, the righteousness of God, and invest in Heavenly things.**

**Colossians 3:1, 2**

**1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.**

**2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.**

**Affection** (Greek) = Exercise the mind or have understanding, be wise, thoughts and emotions. - *Strong's Greek Dictionary and Thayer Greek Definitions.*

**Where should your greatest "investment" portfolio be?**

**Matthew 6:19-21**

**19 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.**

"To invest is to **allocate money** with the expectation of a **positive benefit/return in the future**. In other words, to invest means owning an asset or an item with the goal of generating income from the investment or the appreciation of your investment which is an increase in the value of the asset over a period of time. When a person invests, it always requires a sacrifice of some present asset that they own, such as time, money, or effort." - [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Investment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Investment)

**Where do you invest your time, talent, and money?** There is a lot of hype where people invest much in the worldly systems, stock market and entertainment which as Solomon puts it vanity vanity all is vanity. These investments only feed the greed and fleshly sinful desires.

**Money is not inherently evil. It is the LOVE or coveting of money that is the root of all evil.**

### **1 Timothy 6:10**

10 For the **love of money** is the **root of all evil**: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Despite what a person professes with their lips, where they invest much of their time, talents, and/ or money reveal the truth about where their affections lay. If a person's investments are focused on the things of this world with the expectation of large returns it will vanish in the end. Only investments in the Heavenly things of God give a great and eternal return on investments for the kingdom of God. There is no greater investment.

### **Where should our investment priorities be?**

#### **Matthew 6:33**

33 **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

Jesus told the rich young ruler to sell all his investments, give to the poor and come follow Him. He refused and went away sad. Why did he go away sad? Because he thought he could continue in his covetous, selfish, and worldly desires and still receive the blessings of God. His investments were on temporal earthly things, not heaven. With all the money the rich young ruler had, he did not have the power to give himself eternal life. The same is true today. Our wealth means nothing if it is not invested in the things that will promote the kingdom of God. Those who have a business after the will of God receive the blessing of God as they invest in the kingdom of God. That is the most secure and greatest return on investment and a blessing for others.

True wealth and prosperity is not dependent on the stock market, business deals, bitcoins, and get rich quick schemes. True wealth and prosperity is dependent on obedience of God's Word and humbly yielding your will to Him on a daily basis.

#### **Psalms 112:1-3**

- 1 Praise ye the LORD. Blessed *is* the man *that* feareth the LORD, *that* **delighteth greatly in his commandments.**
- 2 His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.
- 3 Wealth and riches *shall be* in his house: and his **righteousness endureth for ever.**

### **What did God tell the children of Israel before they went into the Canaan-land?**

#### **Deuteronomy 8:17-19**

- 17 And thou say in thine heart, **My power and the might of *mine* hand hath gotten me this wealth.**
- 18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is* he that **giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as *it is* this day.**
- 19 And it shall be, **if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.**

Investing your time, talents, and money in the kingdom of God will keep you humble and focus off yourself. Investing in the temporal things of this world keeps people selfish, covetous, and foolish.

**What warning does Jesus tell us about the desire to accumulate wealth for selfish and covetous purposes?**

**Luke 12:15-21**

- 15 And he said unto them, **Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.**
- 16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, **The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:**
- 17 **And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?**
- 18 **And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.**
- 19 **And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.**
- 20 **But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?**
- 21 **So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.**

**What did God tell Israel when their investments focused on their houses while neglecting and NOT building the house of the Lord?**

**Haggai 1:1-6**

- 1 In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,
- 2 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, **This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built.**
- 3 Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying,
- 4 ***Is it* time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled [covered] houses, and this house [God's] *lie* waste?**
- 5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.
- 6 **Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages *to put it into a bag with holes.***

**False wealth is a collection and hoarding of stuff that only pleases the fleshly desires and selfishness but in the end, as in the parable that Jesus gives here, it means absolutely nothing. The return on investment is ZERO in the end. *IT IS A BAG WITH HOLES!***

**Mark 8:36**

36 **For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?**

If a person has a trillion dollars without Christ all the private jets, numerous earthly mansions, expensive cars, a rocket, and a private island all means NOTHING to Christ in the courts of Heaven. This person is a spiritual vagabond who is dirt poor in faith and poor in obedience to God's word.

The true people of God must be rich in faith and obedience. Jesus investments come with a guarantee of great increase in the Heavenly Kingdom.