

## CHAPTER 16

### PRINCIPLES OF INVESTING

Having concluded in Chapter 15 that it is not a sin to store some of God's property on earth, for certain purposes and under certain conditions, we now consider the question, in what form should we store it? In other words, how should we invest the part of God's property stored here on earth? Does the Bible give us any wisdom or commands which answer these questions? We will seek to answer these questions in this chapter.

Before we can invest, of course, we must have something to invest. Some people overcome this obstacle by borrowing money to invest. Some already have a significant amount of consumer debt (usually credit card debt) which they are trying to service, yet they want to begin an investment program before that debt is paid. A lifetime of observation, both of my own financial management, and that of many others, has convinced me that this approach to investing almost always ends badly. I wonder if the average person realizes how nearly impossible it is to earn as much on borrowed money as the interest you are paying on it, especially over extended periods of time.

Before we begin the subject of investing, we must face two issues. First, is it the will of God for us to store any of His assets on earth at all? Remember the widow who put her last two coins in the temple offering. Jesus did not rebuke her for failing to save them for a rainy day. He commended her. Based on His promise (Matthew 6:33), I am confident He met her earthly needs until the day she died. And based on His comment to her, I would imagine her reward in eternity will be great.

Jesus calls some of His disciples to give up their income and possessions to further His cause full time. Others He calls to hold possessions and earn an income to generously support the same cause. (But He doesn't call any of us to hoard possessions to do with as we please.) The text we studied in Chapter 9 makes this point rather clearly.

At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need ... [2 Corinthians 8:14].

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion ... [2 Corinthians 9:10-11].

If you feel your calling is to forego storing God's assets on earth, you won't need the information given in the rest of this chapter. This was the conviction reached by John Wesley. He said he was afraid to hold money ... fearing it would burn him, so when money came in, he quickly gave it out to charity, and committed to not holding more than 100 pounds at any time. There is a blessing which is enjoyed by those who choose this approach to stewardship. They never have to face the tension of deciding where to draw the line between storing on earth and storing in heaven.

But assuming you believe it is the will of God for you to store some of God's property on earth, there is a second issue which should be faced. Before it makes any real sense to begin investing money, the financial priorities discussed in the preceding chapters of this book should be met.

**All** of the following conditions should exist before we begin investing God's assets.

1. We should be giving generously to the Lord.
2. We should be paying our taxes according to the law.
3. We should have eliminated all consumer debt.
4. We should have a balanced budget in operation.
5. A designated portion of each dollar of income should be set aside in a savings plan.

Think for a few moments about these five conditions. Consider condition 3, for example. Consumer debt is inconsistent with savings. It is in fact *negative* savings. It is future income which you have already spent, instead of being current income set aside for future needs. And, as already mentioned, you are probably paying more interest on your consumer debt than you are earning on your savings, which suggests that until your consumer debt is eliminated, the best investment you can make is repaying it.

Think about condition 4. It is more important to have a balanced budget than to begin a savings program. If you don't have a balanced budget, you are automatically failing to meet one or more of the other conditions. The shortage has to come from somewhere. It may come from your giving commitment, and God will not bless that. If you're cheating on your taxes, God will surely not bless that. If you are borrowing to pay your living expenses, you are sinking deeper in debt and further away from the ability to begin a savings program.

So, until these five priorities have been achieved, the best counsel I can give is, take up a prayer vigil and work on achieving all five. Let me urge you to prayerfully work down through these conditions, making certain that all five are in place before you begin an investment program. It may take several months to know that you have achieved number 4 (a balanced budget). I also suggest that you meditate often on two of the rules given in previous chapters.

**Allocate your resources rather than attempt to pay for your desires.**

**Never concentrate on storing treasure on earth apart from concentrating on storing treasure in heaven.**

So, assuming the five conditions have been met, are we then ready to seek out God's wisdom on investing? Well not quite. I hate to bring it up again, but we need to re-think the message of Chapters 1 and 2 as it applies to saving and investing. I'll be brief, but you might want to re-read the chapters.

**God is in control and He has my best interest at heart.** One of the logical conclusions of this truth is that God decides who gets His

wealth, how much and in what form. Before we undertake to invest our savings, we must understand and accept this truth.

No matter how diligent we are at learning the principles of investing, or how hard we work at it, we won't accumulate a cent more (or a cent less) than He has pre-determined. If you'd like to review some of the key verses which teach this, I suggest Jeremiah 10:23, Psalm 75:6-7, Proverbs 22:2, Ecclesiastes 7:13-14, Lamentations 3:37-40 and Proverbs 21:30. It will be good to have Proverbs 22:2 in our minds now.

Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is maker of them all [Proverbs 22:2].

What *we* can control is the amount of wealth we accumulate in heaven, and it has no relationship to the amount we have to work with here on earth. It is determined by how well we manage God's property for His glory ... by where we draw the line between what we store here and what we surrender here to be stored there. It depends on where our heart is. Until we reach **a state of perpetual surrender of our lust for autonomy**, we won't be satisfied with what God has chosen to entrust to us. We'll attempt to usurp God's role ..... to build our "fortune" to that level we think will make us secure, or happy, or able to do great things for God ..... a mythical level which does not exist. I suggest that you re-read the two "rules" (p. 181) and the five "conditions" (p. 180) which should precede investing, and see if you can find some measure of peace with them.

Having said all of that, are we now ready to study biblical wisdom on investing? I think so. I hope so. After all, God included such wisdom in His Word. We will now seek to answer the question, how should a Christian invest his savings?

#### BEGIN WITH AN EMERGENCY FUND

The first part of the answer to the question is easy, the rest, not so easy. Let's take the easy part first. Consider the first portion of savings which you build as an emergency fund. Its purpose is to meet unexpected and unpredictable needs which could arise. Some financial counselors suggest half of one year's income, but you must decide the

amount, which will depend on your family situation. The important thing is to get started. Your emergency fund should be invested in a safe, liquid investment, from which you can easily withdraw funds when needed, without penalty or loss of interest. My favorite is an interest bearing money market account which allows checks to be written on it like a bank account.

Until you have built your emergency fund, you don't need to attempt other kinds of investing such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, gold, etc. But once your emergency fund has reached its planned level, and all five of the conditions listed above have been met, including an agreed-upon amount going into savings every month, then you are ready to begin other forms of investing. Let's call these "second level savings."

#### HOW SHOULD WE INVEST OUR SECOND LEVEL SAVINGS?

The answer to this question is not easy. The Bible does not give us specific instructions. It doesn't tell us to invest 5% of our savings in a blue chip stock, or invest 15% of our savings in a balanced mutual fund, or 10% in gold coins. In the parable of the talents, the estate owner gave no instructions on how to invest the assets he entrusted to the three managers. He left it to the discretion of each manager. That's the position we're in. But we are not without biblical wisdom regarding this responsibility.

The Bible gives us a number of principles of investing, or wealth-building, which equip us to make these decisions. As we follow this wisdom, along with all the other financial principles and commands we are examining in this book, we'll be on the road to successful saving and investing.

We are now ready to consider actual strategies for investing our savings, which follow the wisdom God has given us in His Word. I will suggest three strategies. You may choose to divide your second level savings among any one, two or all three strategies, as you feel the Lord leads you.

### STRATEGY 1 – SAFE, INTEREST-BEARING DEPOSITS

We've already suggested this strategy for your emergency fund. Its principal objective is to keep the money safe and easily available when needed without delay or penalty. Its secondary objective is to earn some interest. I believe this is the proper strategy for our emergency fund. But some believers will prefer it for all of their savings, especially some older believers. Or, you may want to use it until you develop confidence and skill in one or both of the other two strategies to be discussed next.

Let me be quick to add that when I say this strategy is safe, I mean risk free only in the sense that the money you invest, plus the interest it earns, will always be there. But it is not risk free in the sense that its purchasing power will be the same or greater than when you invested it. Since the Federal Reserve System was created in 1913, the U. S. dollar has lost more than 95% of its purchasing power due to the huge debts being taken on by the government, and the printing of ever-increasing amounts of paper currency to cover the deficit spending of the country.

History demonstrates that all paper currencies eventually become worthless, the only exception being those which by law may be converted into tangible wealth at a guaranteed rate (usually a weight in gold or silver). Thousands of paper currencies have become worthless throughout history, including two in our own nation during its short history. Despite these realities, I use this strategy for a part of my own second level savings, and as we move on to a discussion of strategy 2, you should get a clearer vision of the part it might play in yours.

### STRATEGY 2 – SEEK INVESTMENT COUNSEL

The Bible commends to us the wisdom of seeking counsel.

The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice [Proverbs 12:15].

Here we sense the pathetic state of a fool, who knows no other standard than his own knowledge and opinion. He is contrasted with the person who seeks counsel. The first step toward solving any problem is to understand the problem. Understand that you are not an expert at

investing money, but you are competing head-to-head with those who are.

He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm [Proverbs 13:20].

This verse teaches us that we have to be very careful with our associations. Bad counsel is as bad, or worse, than no counsel. One of the things we must learn is how to distinguish between good and bad counsel. One of the ways we do that is to carefully examine the life and reputation, and in the case of investment counsel, the track record of the person from whom we seek counsel.

Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise [Proverbs 19:20].

The way to become an expert at anything is to go into training under one you believe to be an expert.

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisors they succeed [Proverbs 15:22].

This key passage teaches us one of the ways of avoiding bad counsel. Get several opinions.

There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord [Proverbs 21:30].

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed [Proverbs 16:3].

Here are three observations about these five passages from the Proverbs. First, the first three have to do with counsel from other people. Note that the word “many” is used in Proverbs 15:22. I suggest taking its implication seriously. You may find counselors who are experts in certain areas of investing, but who might not look at things from a biblical perspective. Some may not be Christians. You can profit from their expertise and knowledge, but you will also want counselors who are believers, who will help keep you from failing to follow biblical financial wisdom. In short, learn to distinguish biblical

advice from investment advice. Sometimes you get both from the same person. Sometimes you don't.

Second observation: The last two passages teach us that our main counselor is God Himself. We consult him through prayer, meditation and studying the Scriptures. Any financial plan which fails to follow that counsel will fail, as Proverbs 21:30 so clearly states.

Third observation: We must be careful not to misapply the use of counsel. The purpose of counsel is to prepare us to make the decisions. What we want from our counselor is data, ideas, suggestions ..... his knowledge of the value of certain assets. But *we* are God's managers, and He will hold *us* responsible for deciding how to invest His property.

#### A SUGGESTED RULE FOR THE USE OF INVESTMENT COUNSEL

Before making any investment, seek the counsel of at least three experts. Then pray for thirty days and ask God to impress upon you which, if any, are right. If He doesn't do that, then don't act.

This thirty-day rule can help in at least two ways. It helps prevent impulse investing, which very often turns out badly. If you've been investing for very long, you've probably learned this. Beware of any investment which has to be made *today* ..... immediately, or you will miss out on some great opportunity. If you hear that, take it as a danger signal.

The thirty-day rule also provides time to apply the principles of divine guidance, time in prayer, time in the Scriptures, time with other counselors, time to wait on God to convict us about what we should do. Our objectives are entirely different from those of the materialistic world. In the final analysis, if God is not in it, it will fail (Proverbs 21:30).

#### A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Strategy 2, the use of counsel, is a strategy which I chose many years ago. Beginning around 1965 I began reading books and investment newsletters, which were proliferating rapidly around that time. I recall

at one time subscribing to more than twenty different newsletters at the same time. Each had some good choices and some bad choices. Each had good years and bad years. The more I read and studied, the more confused I got.

It was also at this time that I was given the responsibility of managing the investment portfolio of the company I worked for, a life insurance company in Amarillo, Texas. Our company investments were regulated by the Texas Insurance Department for the protection of the policyholders. I studied the investments of the major insurance companies. I met with the investment officers of several of them, and learned how to make safe investments which complied with the regulations. Most of our policyholders' reserves were invested in high grade bonds and commercial mortgages secured by real estate land and buildings. It was permissible to invest a portion of the assets in common stocks. I had no confidence in my ability to invest in stocks, so we kept that portion small. Our investments did well during the years I managed them, from 1960 to 1986, the year I left the corporate world.

After this, I began managing investments for myself and a few friends and family as a ministry. By the late 1990s I was managing money for more than 30 people. It was at that time that I began to realize that I did not have the wisdom, knowledge and expertise to excel, even though I had had years of experience and research. I also realized that I needed to follow my own advice which I had given when I taught the seminar on which this book is based, the advice given in the paragraphs above. I committed the entire project to God, took up a prayer vigil, and asked Him to lead me to the experts whose knowledge, advice and counsel I should listen to in order to succeed.

God has answered my prayers. Today there are only about ten people in whom I have any real confidence. Some of them are no longer active, so I am reading only 5 or 6 on a consistent and regular basis. They are the basis of my investment strategy today. There are a few other people I consider worth reading, and I do read them, but my confidence is in the top 5 or 6. God has blessed this strategy.

I considered listing them here. But they are subject to change without notice. I would rather God lead you to those He knows are right for

you, assuming you choose this strategy for investing your savings. So I felt it best to not include the list, with one exception, which I will mention for your consideration, with enthusiasm.

Harry Browne is one of the best investment minds of the twentieth century. His first book, *How You Can Profit from the Coming Devaluation*, was published around 1970, and has become a classic. He predicted the devaluation of the dollar, the continuing debasement of the dollar through monetary inflation, and the importance of including gold as part of a diversified investment portfolio.

His latest book, *Fail-safe Investing*, was published in 1999. It is short, very easy to read, and is presented in the form of “the 17 simple rules of financial safety,” including rule 13, “How to establish a diversified portfolio which will protect your money in all economic environments.” As this is written, the book is available in many book stores, or at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). It can also be downloaded from [www.libertyfree.com](http://www.libertyfree.com) for a small fee. I cannot imagine a better value.

In 1982 Mr. Browne started a mutual fund which follows the strategy outlined in the book. It is still in operation and has gained over 9% per year average return since its beginning. Information on the mutual fund is available at [www.permanentportfoliofunds.com](http://www.permanentportfoliofunds.com). This book could be the single most important book you will ever read on investing, an absolute must-read in my opinion.

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSIFICATION

I had not realized that diversification was part of the wisdom of the Bible relating to investing until I studied the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of Ecclesiastes.

Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again [Ecclesiastes 11:1].

I have heard this verse interpreted as an instruction to give to those in need. But if you read it as part of the paragraph which includes verses 1 through 6, it seems clearly to teach the wisdom of spreading your risk in business or investing, and some commentaries point this out.

Give portions to seven, yes to eight, for you do not know what disaster may come upon the land [Ecclesiastes 11:2].

One commentary which I studied pointed out that in the day in which this was written, a common form of investing was to finance the cost of shipping goods across the ocean to other countries, sharing in the profit produced by this enterprise. This probably accounts for the phrase “Cast your bread upon the waters.” There were many risks and hazards involved in this business ... pirates, storms, mutinies, time delays, deterioration or damage to the cargos, and the like. So the writer counsels investors to divide their investment between seven or eight ships, so that if disaster strikes one of them, they won’t lose all their investment.

If clouds are full of water, they pour rain upon the earth. Whether a tree falls to the south or the north, in the place where it falls, there will it lie [Ecclesiastes 11:3].

Here is a further illustration of the wisdom of spreading your risk. If you have all of your savings concentrated in one spot, and “the tree falls on that spot,” you can be wiped out.

Whoever watches the wind will not plant. Whoever looks at the clouds will not reap [Ecclesiastes 11:4].

In this verse the writer brings in some balance, and he’s describing the person who is afraid to take any risks of any kind. He watches the weather (or the news) and wonders where the storm is going to strike. He sees danger in all directions. The writer implies that you have to take risks. All of life involves risk; just spread your risk ... diversify.

As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother’s womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things [Ecclesiastes 11:5].

This is one of many verses which teach that men cannot forecast the future, thus another good reason for diversifying.

Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well [Ecclesiastes 11:6].

Here I believe he summarizes the thesis of the passage. Don't be afraid to take some risks. Go ahead and enter into business or make investments, but use the principle of diversification. It is an important principle of investing God's property. There are many ways of employing this principle, and diversification can be overdone, resulting in a lower average rate of return. But one of the best diversification strategies which I have found is that which is described by Harry Browne in his book, *Fail-safe Investing*.

### STRATEGY 3 – BECOME AN EXPERT AT INVESTING

Don't dismiss this idea quickly. Don't say, "I can't do that." You can if God wants you to. Certainly not all, but some who read this should employ this strategy. Let's re-read two of the verses quoted earlier.

He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm [Proverbs 13:20].

Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise [Proverbs 19:20].

I believe God intends some of us to become experts at investing His money. This is an extension of Strategy 2. We actually sit at the feet of the experts. We diligently study their methods and writings. For the past twenty years, I have sought to employ this strategy.

But I caution any who decide to pursue this strategy (including myself) that there is a major pitfall lying in our path. That pitfall is the temptation to get our eyes off of the main goal in the Christian life, *storing treasure in heaven*. We can easily fall into the trap of wanting to get rich. Many passages warn of this trap.

He who works his land will have abundant food. But he who chases fantasies lacks judgment [Proverbs 12:11].

This is one of many passages that warns against the sin of wanting to get rich. One of the results of a get-rich-quick mentality is impaired judgment, and impaired judgment leads to mistakes and problems.

Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow [Proverbs 13:11].

I believe this is one of the most important verses in the Bible on saving money. God's wisdom on building wealth is gathering money little by little. It is the opposite of chasing fantasies. The best way of storing God's wealth here on earth, assuming He intends for you to do it for kingdom purposes, is to become a collector of lasting values.

When I use the term "lasting values," I'm not referring to "eternal values." The only thing of eternal value is treasure stored in heaven. I'm referring to earthly assets which tend to hold their value or increase in value over periods of years here on earth. They would include the common stocks of companies which have produced a long record of growth in earnings and dividends. Land and buildings can be an example of lasting values.

Gold and silver have been a store of value since the beginning of human history. There are hundreds of references to gold and silver in the Bible, many of which say that gold is a store of wealth. These are examples of assets with lasting values. If you become a systematic collector, little by little, of things of lasting value, you are employing God's wealth-building system.

When you employ this plan, your savings can increase in three ways. First, your savings will increase by the amount you add to your plan each month. No plan will work unless you are adding regularly to it out of the fruits of your labor.

Second, your savings will increase by any income which your investments produce, such as dividends on stocks, interest on bonds or deposits, rent on real estate, and so forth. And note, by reinvesting this income you are harnessing the power of compounding. Someone has called compound interest the "eighth wonder of the world." Given enough time and patience, it truly can be.

Third, your savings can increase by the capital appreciation of certain assets, the increase in their market value. Stocks can go up in value. Bonds can go up. Real estate can go up.

Understand that there are no earthly assets which always go up, and none guaranteed not to go down. So combine the three strategies discussed in this section, that is, (1) Add to your savings faithfully, (2) Collect different things of lasting value (diversification), (3) Employ the power of compounding to the income produced by your investments. This is a plan based on the wisdom of Scripture. Never forget the phrase “**he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.**” It implies patience. It implies waiting on God and trusting Him with the results. After all, He is in control and has our best interest at heart. Notice the contrast in this approach with the next two passages.

Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle [Proverbs 23:4-5].

He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty. A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished [Proverbs 28:19-20].

I suggest you spend some time meditating on these two passages. The same truth is stated from slightly different perspectives. In the first, the person striving to get rich sees his wealth sprout wings and fly off. He ends up broke. The second passage says the person who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.

One of the things that hastens the process of going into poverty is borrowed money. In my opinion, other than the sin of desiring to get rich, the number one contributing factor to the loss of wealth is borrowed money.

There is no commandment which prohibits borrowing, and the use of leverage is not, in and of itself, a sin. But when you borrow with a covetous heart, a get-rich-quick motive, it is a sin, and will lead to

trouble. Here's why. If I borrow, invest and win, what will I do? I'll try again. Not only that, I'll take a bigger risk the next time, because I have some profit from my first investment. If I continue to win, I'll keep increasing my bets. The reason I do that is because the more I make the more I want. There is no amount which satisfies a get-rich-quick mentality. The Bible tells us that.

Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless [Ecclesiastes 5:10].

There is no amount which satisfies a covetous heart. Enough is not enough. You cannot live a victorious Christian life with these emotions controlling your life. Most often, it will eventually lead to poverty, and the Proverb is fulfilled: "The one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty" (Proverbs 28:19).

#### FINAL THOUGHTS

In view of the perils and temptations involved in the pursuit of earthly wealth, should we even try to become experts at investing? Are we "playing with fire" as we invest much of our time and energy in trying to get above average returns on the portion of God's property which remains under our stewardship in this life? Am I really able to know, as I accumulate and distribute assets, the difference between managing God's property and grasping it? Can I be trusted with God's property?

Why not just give most of it to ministries we judge to be contributing the greatest to the kingdom of God, and look to Him for the meeting of our needs? Then we won't be tempted to selfishly consume or hoard God's assets, at least that portion of them. They will be safely in our account in heaven, and be ours for all eternity.

On the other hand, we are given biblical wisdom for storing wealth on earth as well as in heaven. Isn't it possible that by wisely investing earthly wealth, and generously giving to the Lord from the income and gains on that wealth, we could make a greater contribution to the kingdom than if we simply gave most of it away now? But is that a reasonable possibility, in view of our depravity, and our inborn lust for independence?

These are all legitimate questions. As we discussed in Chapter 15, I believe there is wisdom in storing God's property both on earth and in heaven, and that based on the New Testament, God has given us the latitude of choosing where we will draw the line between the two. We will give account of where we draw it when we stand before Jesus at the Judgment Seat. But Scripture is also clear in teaching us that storing on earth is fraught with far more perils than storing in heaven, and we will live all the days of our lives under the tension of drawing the line. As you struggle with this tension, I suggest you prayerfully read the Appendix (see page 233) and ask God to use it to reveal His will for you.

I consider every dollar we give to the Lord as an investment, just as I consider every dollar we store on earth as an investment. I try to invest His earthly wealth in assets which are undervalued, which have a reasonable probability of going up in value or producing a good income. In the same way I try to be zealous in finding heavenly investments which will produce the best returns for God's kingdom. Besides our own local church, which has a great teaching heritage, a book publishing ministry, and individual commitments to service in the community, we look for those ministries we believe are spreading the Gospel and feeding the poor.

Several years ago I met a woman missionary who has given her life to one of the most incredible ministries I have ever seen. As a young woman, she went alone to downtown Tokyo, took up residence there, and notified the hospitals that she was prepared to take any unwanted babies born in those hospitals. Miraculously, the authorities let her begin adopting new born babies. At times she would have several babies in the bottle-feeding, diaper-changing phase.

She raised many of the children to and beyond school age, won most of them to Christ, eventually adopting them all out to Christian families. This year she finished her 50<sup>th</sup> year in that ministry, having adopted a total of more than 200 children.

Over the years many of her children have gone to Bible college and seminary in the US, then returned to Japan as missionaries. Most now have children of their own who are serving God. I cannot imagine a better investment than a ministry like this. Every time we send money

to her, I tingle with excitement at the potential return on our investment. And I am reminded of the verse with which I began this book, “I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.” (Luke 16:9). When we get to heaven, we may be met by a welcoming committee of Japanese Christians.

In the final analysis, success at investing is not to post a gain over a specified time period, but to spend longer and longer periods of time aware that the wealth of the nations all belongs to the Lord, and He is the One sufficient to bring an investor peace. To Him I say, “Lord, God Almighty, I long for that peace, and yet I know that as the accounts rise and fall, and the perceived responsibility increases or decreases, that peace may become more elusive. Who can abide the Day of Your coming? Even so, Lord Jesus, come quickly.”

