INVESTING IN THE KINGDOM

I Timothy 6:17-19

In First Timothy 6 - the Apostle Paul is writing to the rich Christians in the church at Ephesus. The first phrase of verse 17 makes it very clear: "Command those who are rich in this present world."

Three popular money myths:
Myth #1: Having more things equals more happiness.
Myth #2: Having more things equals more importance.
Myth #3: Having more things equals more security.

First Timothy 6:17-19 offers three specific commands for us to consider. The first one involves our heart. The heart always comes first, the money comes later.

I. Examine Your Heart

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (I Timothy 6:17).

A proper view of God leads to a generous view of life, which is why giving (in the broadest sense) ought to be as natural for the Christian as breathing.

II. Consider Your Actions

"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share" (I Timothy 6:18).

Be generous in the way you spend your time. Get involved with others.

III. Enjoy Your Reward

"In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life" (I Timothy 6:19).

You might call this Jesus' Investment Advice. The happiest people on earth are those who have learned the joy of generous living. What we keep, we lose because we won't live forever. What we give away, we keep because the benefits of giving last for eternity.