

- 1 **Purpose-Driven Generosity**
- 2 ***Tell people to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven—it is the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well” (1 Timothy 6:18-19).***
- 3 **Last week we began talking about God’s five purposes for our lives, and how they relate to our giving.***
 - This is our fourth and last message in a fall series on stewardship – the Bible word for the management of lives – our time, talents, and resources.
 - Sometimes people murmur about preachers, “why do they talk about money all the time!”
 - It’s important to talk about the management of our resources, because God wants to connect it to your life’s purpose.
- 4 **Now here’s today’s main point: God wants you to use your money to fulfill your life’s purpose.**
 - God says he wants you to use your money on earth to do good, and when you do this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourself in heaven.
 - You can’t take your money with you, but you can send it on ahead by investing in people who are going there.
- 5 **Today let’s talk about giving in terms of God’s Five Investment Funds.**
 - God’s five investment funds parallel the five purposes God has for your life.

- The first two we talked about last week.

6 **First, God wants you to invest in his treasury fund.**

- This is giving as an act of worship to God from the heart.
- It fulfills our first purpose of loving and worshipping God first.
- Jesus taught that where we place our treasure our heart will naturally follow.
- God says, "I want not your money, but I want what it represents, your heart."
- In a nutshell, this first kind of giving means giving your undesignated gift to the church as an act of worship, when and where you worship.

7 **Second, God wants you to invest in his mutual fund.**

8 **The Bible tells us in Romans 12:10 to "love one another with brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other."**

9 **"How wonderful it is, how pleasant, when God's people live in harmony!" (Psalm 133:1).**

10 **Investing in God's mutual fund means to use our resources to love others – to build unity and fellowship among believers.**

11 **This fulfills our purpose of loving others, building fellowship and relationship.**

12 **Third, God wants you to invest in his growth fund. This is where we start today's message.**

- God's third purpose for your life is for you to become like Christ.
- Most people know how to use their time to grow spiritually but don't know how to use their money to

grow spiritually.

- The way to invest in the growth fund is by using some of your money to enhance your character and become more like Christ.

13 **Proverbs 10:16 tells us, “The earnings of the godly enhance their lives, but evil people squander their money on sin.”**

14 **We all know that Satan has a zillion ways to get us to squander our money instead of investing for eternity.**

- You are not going to take your car to heaven or your clothes, your china or your house.
- However, you will take your character to heaven. For this reason, you should spend some of your money on your character.

15 **Proverbs 23:23 says, “Buy the truth and do not sell it.”**

16 **What does this mean?**

- Using your money to buy a Christian book, to order some teaching tapes, to take a class, to attend a conference, or to attend a retreat, will help you grow spiritually.
- Doing these such things means you are investing in your spiritual growth fund.
- I will never forget buying my first Bible as a teenager. It was the Living Bible translation. God’s Word came alive and changed my life. It was as if God began speaking to me personally. No doubt the best investment, I’ve ever made!

17 **Isaiah 55:2 says, “Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen, and I will tell you where to get food that is good for the soul!”**

- 18 **The author is saying that it is wiser to spend your money on something that is going last.**
- Rather than hoarding your money, take some of it and use it to make yourself a better person.
 - Become wiser and more Christlike by investing in the growth fund.
 - Just think about it: In light of eternity, our character is far more important than fleeting earthly things.
- 19 **Fourth, God wants you to invest in his equity service fund.**
- 20 **This means that God wants you to use some of your money to serve other people in their needs.**
- 21 **Paul commended the Christians at Macedonia because “they gave not only what they could afford but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the gracious privilege of sharing in the gift for the Christians in Jerusalem” (2 Corinthians 8:3-4).**
- 22 **By giving even more than they could afford, these Christians exemplified sacrificial giving.**
- 23 **Rick Warren tells the story of a Korean church in Los Angeles that owned nearly an entire block.**
- He asked them how in the world they got an entire block of downtown property.
 - They said, “We sold our blood.” They were all poor and didn’t have anything, so they started selling their own blood, and all of the profit helped build their church. They literally gave their blood for that church. Can you believe it?!
 - By investing in God’s service fund and giving more than they could afford, the members of this Korean church were storing up treasures in heaven.

- 24 **We are stewards of everything God has given us in this life.**
- Influence, money, talent and even your energy are all stewardships.
 - Your health and body are stewardships.
 - Your family and relationships are stewardships.
 - Even your intelligence and your creativity are stewardships.
 - God will ask you what you did with all of these gifts.
 - Don't use them all on yourself.
 - God put you on earth to practice learning to be unselfish so that you could become more like him because he is a generous God.
 - Remember that God so loved the world that he gave (John 3:16).
 - You can't become like God until you become extravagantly generous. That is why giving is so important.
- 25 **The Bible says, "We must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "**
Acts 20:35 NIV
- 26 **Jesus said, "I did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many",**
- 27 **... and that phrase reveals what it means to be Christ-like: to serve and to give.**
- 28 **Investing in God's service fund means using your money to help the practical needs of people, especially the poor.**
- 29 **Finally, God wants you to invest in his global fund.**
- Investing in this fund means using your money to take

the good news of the gospel around the whole world.

- If you want to know how much God loves the entire world, look at the cross.
- With arms outstretched and nail pierced hands, Jesus says, I love the world this much. I would rather die than live without them.
- But just think about all the people in the world who have not heard about Jesus – the incredible good news of God’s love even once! Perhaps as much as 25% of the world is still unreached – they’ve never heard about Jesus.
- God says that if you are going to be like him, you must care about the whole world. You must not be solely concerned with your community and your family. You must also care about the global glory of God.

30 **God said to Isaiah, “I will make you a light to the nations of the world to bring my salvation to them” (Isaiah 49:6).**

31 **By making you successful in many areas throughout your life, God has been setting you up for a bigger vision, a global vision of care for the whole world.**

- He has been setting you up for years because he wants you to invest in the global fund.
- You invest in the global fund by using some of your money to extend your mission to the world.

32 **We’re not used to thinking about money this way are we?**

- Of course we have to “pay the rent” and meet our everyday needs. God understands that.
- Jesus is the one who who taught us to pray for “our daily bread”
- But beyond “daily bread” – meeting our basic needs – God want to live so that “his Kingdom comes, his will

be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

- That’s why God wants us to invest in his five investment funds.

33 **Where do you need to start investing?**

- His Treasury Fund – giving to God through the church as an act of worship.
- His Mutual Fund – giving to enhance fellowship and relationship with others.
- His Growth Fund – giving to benefit your spiritual growth.
- His Service Equity Fund – giving to serve other’s needs.
- His Global Fund – giving to take the good news all around the world

34 **This message based on the sermon, “Purpose Driven Generosity” by Rick Warren of Saddleback Church.**