

“Choosing True Riches”

St. Andrew's Church * Philippians 3:1-14 * Jan. 23, 2005

Three investment principles for God's economy:

Principle #1: Not every spiritual investment strategy is SAFE.

Philippians 3:1, 2 - ¹It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. ²Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh.

Response: Learn to practice DISCERNMENT.

Principle #2: Being good isn't GOOD ENOUGH.

Philippians 3:4-6 - ⁴...If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

Romans 3:20a (NLT) - ...no one can ever be made right in God's sight by doing what his law commands.

Matthew 5:20 - (Jesus said) ...unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Mark 10:17-20 - ¹⁷As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”
¹⁸“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.’”
²⁰“Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”
²¹Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” ²²At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Response: Ask: “Where am I placing my TRUST?”

Principle #3: God helps those who CANNOT HELP themselves.

Philippians 3:7-8 - ⁷But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish that I may gain Christ...

Romans 3:22 (NLT) ²²We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done.

Response: Place your FULL TRUST in KNOWING Christ.

Philippians 3:9 - (That I may be) be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

John 17:3 – (Jesus prayed) - Now this is eternal life : that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

Philippians 3:10-11 - ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Mark 10:21-22 - Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” ²²At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Translation key: Unless noted, all verses are from the New International Version; NLT = New Living Translation.