

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

INVESTING FOR ETERNITY

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SOCIAL SECURITY

When I started working in the United States in 1963, I had to enroll in the Social Security System. I was 24 years old and did not appreciate being forced to enroll in this program and I hated it when my employer deducted social security taxes.

The years rolled on and in 1976 I became a pastor and the deacons had a discussion with me in the church. They told me that since we were a small church, they wanted to save as much as they could on taxes and told me that as I could withdraw from the Social Security System because I was a minister. I did not give an answer at once as I thought about it as I prayed over this issue. When I told them that I wanted to stay in the system, they laughingly told me that Social Security would be broke by the time I could start drawing retirement from the system and all the money I had paid in would be wasted.

I hit age 65 in 2004 and the Social Security System was still there and I get a check every month. Some of the people who had laughed at me in 1976 are dead, others had abandoned their friendship with me, and I realized that these people were not interested in me and my welfare because they had their own agenda. For the last nine years I have been blessed to have to receive this additional income. By making a decision to invest in my future on earth I will continue to receive this income as long as the government of the United States does not go broke. I believe that I made a wise decision in 1976.

INVESTING FOR ETERNITY

When I gave my life to Christ in 1965, I did not stop and think about what I wanted to invest in the Kingdom of God. I knew that I had received eternal life and would live forever with God in heaven, but as I grew in Christ, I began to think about the kinds of rewards that would be mine in heaven. In this message I want to share an investment plan that will pay dividends for eternity:

1. In order to enroll in God's investment program, you must become a tither. Without being enrolled in this program you are out in the cold and on your own. **Malachi 3:6-12**
2. Just like in the game of Monopoly where each player gets a certain amount of money before the game begins, God also gives each one of us gifts and skills to use on earth. **Matthew 25:14-18**
3. God expects us to develop these gifts and skills and our "eternal dividends" will be based upon what we did with our gifts and skills on this earth. **verses 19-23**



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4. The person that rejects the offer of salvation will be sent to the Lake of Fire, where dividends are going to be paid out in form of eternal torment. **verses 24-30; Matthew 13:18-23**
5. Every believer in Christ will stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ at the end of their life. This is not about whether you are saved or not, but where Jesus will decide your position and eternal dividends. **1 Corinthians 3:11-14**
6. This will be a fair judgment and you won't be compared to other people; Jesus will judge you according to what He had given you to work with on earth. **Luke 12:42-48**
7. Jesus won't demand that you be successful; instead, He wants you to be faithful. **Luke 16:1-12**
8. The teaching of eternal rewards is also found in the Gospel of Luke. **Luke 19:11-19**
9. You can enlarge your eternal heavenly portfolio by being faithful and obedient to the commands of Jesus:
 - a) Witness to those around you. **Matthew 28:18-20**
 - b) Do the works of Jesus. **Matthew 10:1; Luke 9:1-2; 10:1-9; Mark 16:15-20**
 - c) Do your best in every situation. **1 Peter 2:9-21**

Are you actively investing in your eternal heavenly portfolio?

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?