

The Christian Arsenal

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HOW TO INVEST YOUR LIFE Investing Your Life

Dr. Ken Culver

Part 1 of 7

Matthew 25:14-30 (NLT)

OUR CHURCH'S GLOBAL VISION

From the first day of our church, it has been our goal to send people out!

THE VISION

***"It is the dream** of a place where the hurting, the depressed, the frustrated, and the confused can find love, acceptance, help, hope, forgiveness, guidance, and encouragement.*

***It is the dream** of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the thousands of residents in Fayette County.*

***It is the dream** of welcoming members into the fellowship of our church family – loving, learning, laughing, and living in harmony together.*

***It is the dream** of developing people to spiritual maturity through Bible studies, small groups, seminars, retreats, and a Bible school for our members.*

***It is the dream** of equipping every believer for a significant ministry by helping them discover the gifts and talents God gave them.*

***It is the dream** of sending out hundreds of career missionaries and church workers all around the world, and empowering every member for a personal life mission in the world. It is the dream of sending our members by the hundreds on short-term mission projects to every continent. It is the dream of starting at least one new daughter church every year.*

***It is the dream** of land on which will be built a regional church for our County – with beautiful, yet simple, facilities ... including a worship center seating thousands, a counseling and prayer center, classrooms for Bible studies and training lay ministers, and a recreation area. All of this will be designed to minister to the total person – spiritually, emotionally, physically, and socially – and set in a peaceful, comfortable landscape ...*

*I stand before you today and state in confident assurance that these dreams **will become reality**. Why? Because they are inspired by God!*

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Theme for the 21st Century

“Send us around the world with the news of your saving power and your eternal plan for all mankind.” Psalm 67:2 (LB)

SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF INVESTMENT

1. OWNERSHIP: EVERYTHING I HAVE BELONGS TO GOD.

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them” verse 14

2. ALLOCATION: GOD HAS GIVEN ME SOME TALENTS.

“To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability.” Verse 15

Talents are: abilities
Resources
Skills
Opportunities
Spiritual gifts

Notice the amount differs, but everybody gets something. There is no such thing as a no-talent person.

3. ACCOUNTABILITY: GOD EXPECTS ME TO USE THEM.

“After a long time the master of the servants came and settled accounts with them.” Verse 19

Someday God will ask me:

What did you do with what I gave you?

4. UTILIZATION: IT’S WRONG TO BURY WHAT GOD GAVE ME.

1st man – (v. 16) – took his talents and doubled them.

2nd man – (v. 17) – took his talents and doubled them.

3rd man – (v. 18) – buried his talent.

THE MASTER’S REACTION (verses 26,27)

“...you wicked, lazy servant...”

I’d rather attempt to do something great and fail than to attempt to nothing and succeed.

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5. MOTIVATION: FEAR KEEPS ME FROM DEVELOPING MY TALENT.

"I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground." V. 26

THREE KINDS OF FEAR:

- Self doubt
- Self pity
- Self consciousness

It does not matter so much where you've been. What matters is what direction your feet are headed when you land.

Will the rest of my life be the best of my life?

6. APPLICATION: IF I DON'T USE IT I LOSE IT.

"Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents." V. 28

That doesn't seem fair! The rich get richer and the talented get more talented.

The issue is, whatever you need more of, start giving it to God, start using it for God.

7. COMPENSATION: IF I USE MY TALENTS, I'M GOING TO BE REWARDED.

"His master replied, Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things – I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master's happiness." V. 23

THREE REWARDS:

- Affirmation – "well done"
- Promotion – "You've been faithful with little, I'll trust you with more."
- Celebration – "come and share your Master's happiness."

LIFE INVESTMENT GUIDE

"Store up for yourselves treasure in heaven." Matt 6:20

|-----| My talent
10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

|-----| My time

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10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

|-----| My money
10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

X = My current % of investment

O = My goal for the next six months