

Text: Selected Texts (Luke 16:10–13, Matthew 6:19-21, 2 Corinthians 9:1-15)

Call to Worship: Psalm 50

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Theme: You must invest your earthly resources for eternal rewards.

Introduction:

Washington Irving is best known for his short stories “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and “Rip Van Winkle.” Irving coined the phrase “the almighty dollar” in his lively description entitled “The Creole Village: A Sketch from a Steamboat” which was first published in 1836 in an annual collection called “The Magnolia.”¹ “In a word, the almighty dollar, that great object of universal devotion throughout our land, seems to have no genuine devotees in these peculiar villages; and unless some of its missionaries penetrate there, and erect banking-houses and other pious shrines, there is no knowing how long the inhabitants may remain in their present state of contented poverty.”²

Do you serve Almighty Dollar or Almighty Father? You must invest your earthly resources for eternal rewards.

I. Idol Investing Reveals Enmity Luke 16:10–13

Idol Investing is Investing in Idols, namely the idol of money. This idea applies to unbelievers. Enmity is hatred. God is their enemy.

A. Idol Investing Reveals Enmity in your devotion.

Matthew 6:24. See also Luke 18:18–23.

B. Idol Investing Reveals Enmity in your desire.

1 Timothy 6:9–10; Hebrews 13:5; 1 John 2:16

A story by about a covetous poor goat herder as told by Ryan Schiavo from a short-term ministry trip.³

C. Idol Investing Reveals Enmity in what you do.

Luke 12:15–21. See also James 5:1–6.

II. Idle Investing Returns Emptiness Matthew 6:19-21

Idle Investing is investing in idle, worthless endeavors, namely the cares of this life. This is believers who do love God but are making poor choices.

See also Luke 12:32–34.

A. Idle Investing Returns Emptiness Because Treasure on Earth Doesn't Last.

1. **Material treasure doesn't last**

2. **Immaterial treasure doesn't last - (education; reputation; friendships)**

B. Idle Investing Returns Emptiness Because Time on Earth Doesn't Last.

James 4:13–17

¹William Safire, “Almighty Dollar,” *The New York Times Magazine*, <https://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/15/magazine/15wwln-safire-t.html>, accessed March 24, 2020.

²“The Creole Village” was also published in “New-York Mirror, A Weekly Journal, Devoted to Literature and the Fine Arts,” Vol. 14, No. 19, November 4, 1836, which you can read here: <https://books.google.com/books?id=nxNAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA145>

³<http://1075alive.com/ryan-schiavo-reports-mission-field/> posted March 16, 2016; you can still find the whole post here: <https://web.archive.org/web/20160601233105/1075alive.com/ryan-schiavo-reports-mission-field/>

III. Ideal Investing Rewards Eternally 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

A. Ideal Investing Rewards Eternally Because of the Sovereign One v.12

B. Ideal Investing Rewards Eternally Because of the Saving One v.13

Matthew 16:25–27

Voice of the Martyrs is an organization that was begun in 1967 by a man named Richard Wurmbrand, who was imprisoned for over a decade in Romania for his faith. One of the purposes of VOM is “To promote the fellowship of all believers by informing the world of the faith and courage of persecuted Christians, thereby inspiring believers to a deeper level of commitment to Christ and involvement in His Great Commission”⁴

C. Ideal Investing Rewards Eternally Because of the Saved Ones vv.13-14

1. God uses your giving in strengthening people.

2. God will use your giving in saving people.

Luke 16:9

Closing Thoughts

D. There are other things that the Bible says you must do with your money.

1. Feed your family 1 Timothy 5:8

2. Pay your taxes Romans 13:1–2, 6–7; Matthew 22:21

E. God doesn’t need your money Acts 17:24–25, 28

“See also passages such as Job 42:2; Ps 115:3; Dan 4:35; Rom 9:15–16; Eph 1:5, 9, 11; etc., which speak specifically to the independence of God with respect to his purposes, counsel, choices, and exercise of power.”⁵

My goal today is to have you consider why you are working so hard to earn the money that you do and why you are spending your money the way you do.

Conclusion:

“At a meeting of Baptist leaders in the late 1700s, a newly ordained minister stood to argue for the value of overseas missions. He was abruptly interrupted by an older minister who said, ‘Young man, sit down! You are an enthusiast. When God pleases to convert the heathen, he’ll do it without consulting you or me.’”⁶ This “young man” was William Carey, the father of modern missions

You must invest your earthly resources for eternal rewards.

⁴<https://www.persecution.com/about/>

⁵Snoeberger, Mark; *Systematic Theology I*; class notes; September 14, 2011; p. 93

⁶<https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/missionaries/william-carey.html>