



# Life Principles Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God

## INVESTING IN ETERNITY

**KEY PASSAGES:** 1 Timothy 2:1-8 | 1 John 2:1-2 | **SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 5:13-16; 28:19-20  
Mark 16:15 | John 3:16; 20:21 | Acts 1:8-9 | Romans 3:23; 10:13 | Ephesians 2:8-9 | 1 Peter 1:18-19, 2:24; 3:18  
2 Peter 3:9 | Revelation 5:9

### SUMMARY:

#### Financial markets rise and fall.

But there is one investment that guarantees a good return: investing in another person's soul. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell us that heaven and earth will pass away. When that happens, everyone will stand before the Lord for judgment. Those who accepted God's gift of salvation will live with Him eternally. People who rejected Christ will forever be separated from God.

That's why, when we lead someone into an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, we make an eternal investment in that person's soul. You and I have a responsibility to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those in our neighborhood, city, nation, and around the world.

### SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES:

#### We should share the gospel because God desires it.

■ **The Father "desires all men to be saved"** (1 Tim. 2:4). The message the world needs to hear is that they can be rescued from their sinfulness and become a new person in Christ. Notice that God desires *everyone* to be saved. No one is excluded. Some believe that Jesus died for only "the elect," or a chosen few. But Scripture says, "He Himself is the propitiation (atonement) for our sins; and not only for ours, but for also for *the whole world*"

(1 John 2:2, emphasis added). Jesus tells us in John 3:16 that "whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Second Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is . . . not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." Believers from each tribe, tongue, and nation will be represented in heaven (Rev. 5:9). You and I have a responsibility to share the good news with all people.

#### ■ **The Father also "desires all men . . . to come to a knowledge of the truth"**

(1 Tim. 2:4). God isn't satisfied with someone becoming His child. The Father wants us to increase in knowledge and understanding of Him. Spiritual growth makes us more effective at sharing the gospel with others.

One of our church deacons had been involved in organized crime before he got saved. After he became a Christian, this man passionately applied himself to learning the Word. His past combined with his enthusiasm for spiritual growth made him a very effective prison evangelist. Because inmates could relate to him, many of them responded to the gospel message. He was a living testimony that anyone can become a brand new person in Christ—regardless of his or her past.

#### **The gospel is God's provision for sinful mankind (Rom. 2:23).**

Many think being a moral person guarantees that they will go to heaven. People rationalize

that they are not as sinful as others and that their good deeds outweigh the bad. But the Bible says, “By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8-9). All of us have a sinful nature and have rebelled against our Creator (Rom. 3:23).

Most people understand that God is holy, but they don’t realize the implications of this fact. By His very nature, He can not accept humanity in our sinful state. You and I can not be good enough to get into heaven. The only way we are acceptable to the Lord is through Christ, the mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5-6). Our Savior’s death made it possible for anyone to become a child of God. But we must be willing to accept the ransom that Jesus paid on our behalf. The apostle Peter wrote, “Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18). Not only was God’s intent to rescue us not only from the guilt of sin, He also meant to free us from its penalty, its power, and—when we get to heaven—its very presence.

### **God has commissioned us to share the gospel with the world.**

Believers are to be like salt and light wherever we go (Matt. 5:13-16). Light drives away the darkness, and salt changes the flavor of food. At work, at home, and at play, your presence should make a difference. Many non-believers think that the Bible is outdated and that it is full of myths. Your life can prove them wrong. Seek to reach out to your neighbors, co-workers, and relatives who don’t know Jesus. If you aren’t allowed to talk about your faith at work, you can still live in such a way that other people wonder why you have peace in the midst of life’s difficulties. Ask God for opportunities to share your testimony; I guarantee He will open doors for you. Don’t be someone who

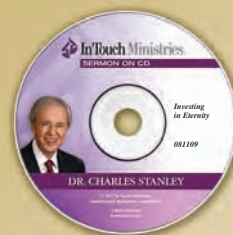
prays for foreign missions but neglects to share the gospel in your hometown.

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would give us power to share the gospel in our city, our nation, and around the world (Acts 1:8-9; Matt. 28:19-20). One way we can do this is through technology. Through radio, television, and the internet, we’ve been able to preach the Word even in areas that are closed to missionaries. But in addition to broadcasting the gospel, we must send ministers who can disciple new believers. Even if we are not called to serve God abroad, you and I should participate in the Great Commission by praying, giving financially, and supporting missionaries in other ways (Mark 16:15).

### **CONCLUSION:**

The best way to invest in eternity is to share the gospel. Nothing is more fulfilling than seeing a friend or loved one come to know Jesus Christ. Your blessing will be two fold: you will have the joy of playing a role in that person’s salvation and you will earn heavenly rewards at the same time. You cannot make a wiser, more lasting investment than in someone’s eternal destiny.

If you haven’t already accepted God’s gift of forgiveness, I hope you will. The Lord is willing to cleanse you of your wrongdoing, no matter what sins you have committed. Jesus, the one mediator between God and man, paid the ransom for your soul by dying on the cross. By faith, ask Him to pardon your sins. Receive Christ as your Savior and Lord. You’ll be taking the first step towards investing in your eternity.✝



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