

THE POWER OF COMPOUNDING INTEREST, AND SPIRITUAL VISION

J Christians are to be savvy when it comes to using the resources God has given us to further the Kingdom of Christ. Not only are we to be *givers* to the Kingdom, we are to be *investors* for the Kingdom. We give in our regular offerings, but both individuals and churches are to be investing that money to not only expend it for the sake of the Gospel, but grow it.

U Jesus discusses money and one's attitude toward it and God at length in the Gospels. People who use money solely for their own purposes without accountability to God, to satisfy their lusts, and wastefully are condemned. People who manage the resources God gives with an eye toward developing the Kingdom are commended. Wise Christians not only work toward their retirement, but work toward furthering the Kingdom of Christ – that it will not suffer loss, but rather grow.

L To that end, I saw a comment by Warren Buffet, CEO of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., the world's largest and most successful investment company, that stated if a person had invested \$10,000 in 1942 they would have \$51M today! That is an astounding thought, and it should encourage us to use our gifts as wise stewards not just for self-enrichment, but to massively grow global missions!

Y There is a temptation for churches in North America to build bigger campuses and spend money on their members while letting global missions languish. That is wrong! While we do not wish for our churches to crumble, as individuals we should be strongly supporting mission work, and our churches should do likewise. Partners of The Word Today understand how important it is to keep the focus on Gospel mission work.

One reaction to the article is worth noting; "So, if you have \$150K sitting in cash right now, just invest it, then wait 75 years. It could be worth \$750M in the year 2083!" How many of us had \$150K spare change to let sit for 75 years? How many have that amount to let sit for 75 years now? Not many, I presume. So what? *The point is, whatever you invest long term will grow in the American economy, likely far more than you can imagine.* Like planting a tree three decades ago, it rises to become truly enormous. Your cost is time, your gain – and the Kingdom's gain - is wealth. That is the formula. Your goal is to retire, and the Kingdom's goal is to reach more with the saving news of Christ's love.

To that end, the incredible total for the 40th Anniversary of The Word Today was achieved because of a \$100K gift from a life insurance policy. I don't mean to be morbid, but we all will die. The family that gave that gift *planned* to do something for The Word Today in order to propel the Gospel further for generations, even in death.

Do you have the vision in faith to do similar for the Lord?

2018

Thoughts
Box 77
Greendale
WI
53129



*The Bible is God's Word . . . Jesus is God's "Word" made flesh . . .
His death and resurrection, the message needed Today.*

July

2

LISTEN TO THE WORD

For perhaps three years now my predominant form of instruction in the Word during devotional times is in the form of an audio Bible. In the tradition of the Apostles and disciples who crowded at Jesus' feet, I *listen* to the Word of God. It's different in that it allows your mind to freely associate with the words being spoken. There is a liveliness to hearing someone speak God's Word. I encourage you to get the Bible on a USB stick and use it in your car, or take it with you. You can also get it on your phone or laptop. Let the Word of God *speak* to you!

"DO THE WORD"

The theological term "orthodoxy" refers to the doctrine which is taught, and the term "orthopraxy" refers to the practice of that faith. James 1:22 states, "Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." Recall that Abraham believed God and followed through with His will.

It's a bit like a physical workout. I don't really enjoy workouts, but I do them daily – well, I Sabbath on Sunday. I would much prefer to slack, to sit around and drink coffee, or surf the Net, but I get to the gym. Doing the Word of God is similar, sometimes it is work. But, the benefit is *spiritual conditioning*. What do I mean by that? Spiritual conditioning is development of patience, forbearance, temperance, gracefulness, kindness, etc. We first learn Christian virtues, then we get tested (i.e. workout!) on them to practice them! Most of the time the test is not fun, but with time we accept the challenge and do so for the glory of Christ, remembering that our reward is not earthly, but eternal.

URGES

Urges and desires can be strange things; they can come out of nowhere to possess our thinking! I don't know why, this morning I had an urge to get a drone. How the idea flew into my head, I have no clue. I'm not really into such things, so it seemed out of place. Yet, I envisioned awesome times flying it! Remember when you were a kid and the toys on TV all looked so cool? The reality was often much different. Impulses and urges are sure to come in all varieties and intensities. Do you give in to them? Do you shelf the impulse and think about it for a while? Usually it is wise to consider our impulses. Impulsive people can get into a lot of trouble, especially if those impulses are driven by anger! So, I'm going to sit on that idea for a while. Maybe I'll break out the boys old RC cars; that should satisfy the itch.

Blessings!

Douglas W. Schroeder