

# Chapter 1

## Faithful Managers: Investing with Their Values

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you react to this statement: “God has a plan for your life, *including your money*, and you will be held accountable for faithfulness to His plan”?

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2. In today’s society, what does a faithful manager look like? How does he or she live within American culture?

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3. What values drive your thinking and actions in the areas of possessions, family, working, investing, and giving? Is there a disconnect between what you know to be the “correct” answers and the way you are actually living?

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4. Consider the idea that investing in only a means to an end and that *all* of our earthly goals are truly short-term in light of eternity. How does that impact your financial priorities?

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5. How important is it to you to invest in your family?

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6. What are your views on giving and investing in others? Have you spent any time studying what the Bible says about giving? How can you be more intentional in this area of your life?

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## Chapter 2

### The Ultimate Investment

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you think of giving—as obligation or opportunity? What is that based on? How would God have you look at it?

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2. Do you believe that God rewards Christians who are faithful with the time, abilities, and possessions He entrusts to their care? Can we earn rewards?

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3. Can a Christian lose rewards because of unfaithfulness in this life?

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4. Have you ever thought about the nature of eternity, heaven, and eternal rewards? What passages in the Bible have shaped your thinking in this area?

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5. Why do you believe it is difficult for Christians today to focus on eternity and laying up treasures in heaven as opposed to this world?

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6. Are you open to the possibility that God may have a plan for you to give more than you ever thought you could or would? How would He communicate that to you? How would you accomplish it?

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## Chapter 3

### The Eternity Portfolio

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are you intentional about your responsibilities as a manager of God's resources? If not, why not?

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2. What are some things that motivate you to give? Have you ever given with selfish motives?

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3. In the past, how have you gone about the process of deciding when to give, where to give, and how much to give? In what ways would you like to change that process?

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4. During childhood, most of us learned about money either through the teaching or example of our parents. Which of these "money lessons" from your parents have carried over into your adult years, specifically related to giving?

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## Chapter 4

### Funding the Portfolio Part 1: How Much is Enough for Now?

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you have a financial plan for your Family Portfolio? Based on the information in this chapter, how faithful do you think you are being with your money in this area?

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2. Have you ever considered the idea of establishing a limit on your family's lifestyle expenses over time? What would be some of the benefits of such a limit? What would be the downside?

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3. What percentage of your current income is scheduled to be invested in your Eternity Portfolio™? (Based on your current budget or the Annual Cash Flow Statement on page 54)

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4. Do you expect your income to increase, decrease, or stay the same over the next ten years? Who controls that?

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5. How do you plan to be more intentional about your investment in your Eternity Portfolio™ over the next ten years?

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6. How could you take greater advantage of the tax-savings opportunities in your giving? (e.g. gifts of appreciated stock)?

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## Chapter 5

### Funding the Portfolio Part 2: How Much is Enough for Good?

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does retirement mean to you? Financial independence? Relaxation? Moving from full-time to part-time work? An opportunity for ministry?

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2. Have you established a financial finish line for your life savings? If so, how has that impacted your outlook on life? Work? Money?

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3. Is financial independence a worthy goal for a Christian? Why or why not?

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4. Should your life be different once you reach “financial independence”? If so, how?

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5. If you have already reached the point where financially it appears that you have “enough,” what are you doing with the excess? Might God be leading you to invest significantly more in your Eternity Portfolio™ right now?

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6. If retirement and financial independence seem out of reach for you, what should your response be?

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## Chapter 6

### God's Asset Allocation

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How might thinking about your giving in terms of a portfolio of investments change your perspective?

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2. What do you think about the idea that God has given instructions in the Bible for maximizing your Eternity Portfolio™? Do you agree with the three “asset classes” of evangelism, discipleship, and mercy? If not, what do you think is missing?

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3. In the past, how have you thought about giving to the poor? How has God molded your views in this area? Based on what you read in Scripture, should your current giving have a greater or lesser emphasis on the poor?

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4. If you have not supported your local church in the past, why not? Did any of the six reasons on pages 104-105 convince you to begin? If you have faithfully supported your church, how has that impacted you? What results have you seen?

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5. Have you ever thought about your personal mission? After reading the information in this chapter, in what areas do you believe God would have you focus your giving?

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6. How can you be more sensitive to God's leading as it relates to spontaneous giving?

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# Chapter 7

## Making Wise Investments

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In the past, how have you decided which organizations to support? Do you know how effective they were in using the money?

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2. Have you ever thought about your responsibility for what happens *after* you give money to an organization? Do you think you hold any responsibility for this?

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3. Consider the organizations or individuals in which you are investing today. How do they measure up based on the information in this chapter?

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4. Do you think it's possible that you may be called to invest in an organization that, based on earthly wisdom and prudence, just does not measure up well? Why or why not?

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5. How do you find the balance between accountability for your investments and faith?

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6. What is your reaction to creating an Eternity Portfolio™ investment policy statement? How might it help or hinder your giving?

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## Chapter 8

### Passing the Baton: A Legacy That Outlasts You

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you considered what sort of “giving legacy” you would like to leave behind? What would you want your family and friends to say about your life when it is over?

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2. If you knew you had ten years left to live, what would you do to create the sort of legacy you described above?

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3. What financial lessons are you teaching your children? Is this happening intentionally or by accident?

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4. When you consider the financial legacy you might leave to your heirs, how much do you think is enough to empower them without hindering their lives?

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5. Once you have decided on your children’s inheritance, what will you do with the rest of your estate? What might be the best ways for you to invest more in your Eternity Portfolio™?

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6. What do you think about the idea that we should prayerfully reconsider any investment we could currently make in our Eternity Portfolio™ that is being delayed until our death? How might this idea change your estate planning?

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## Chapter 9

### The Seven Golden Keys to Investing for Eternity

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which of the seven principles (conviction, communion, conduction, combustion, compassion, connection, consecration) is the most challenging for you? Why?

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2. What do you think of the idea that the intersection of your personal life mission with your giving is an unusually powerful combination (the connection principle)? How are you developing a stronger sense of your personal mission?

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3. What changes might you make in your Eternity Portfolio™ as a result of these principles?

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Other Final Thoughts on Investing in Eternity?

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