

ENTREPRENEURIAL GIVING

In Matthew 6, Jesus warns us, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

Randy Alcorn, in his book, The Treasure Principle, relates these thoughts regarding this scripture: “...when Jesus warns us not to store up treasures on earth, it’s not just because wealth MIGHT be lost; it’s because wealth will ALWAYS be lost. Either it leaves us while we live, or we leave it when we die. No exceptions.”

This being true, what is the best use of our wealth? The answer is obvious – give it to the Lord. There are many resources, beyond our income, that we can give. For example, you may own appreciated securities or depreciated securities. There are greater advantages to giving securities than cash. You may own real property that could be given outright to the church or converted into a charitable trust which could benefit both you and your church.

Some may have savings bonds that you have owned for years which you could donate. You will realize the interest income, but will also get an offsetting deduction for a cash gift.

The same is true of retirement assets. If you are 59 and a half, you can withdraw from your account, without penalty, and make a cash gift to the church. You must report the income, but you will get an offsetting deduction.

What about that paid-up life insurance policy you no longer need? Why not give it to the church and let the church cash it in?

If you have questions about any of these gift ideas, call Brenda McCollum, J.D., Office of Strategic Endowed Giving, Florida Baptist Convention, (904) 396-2351 extension 3030, or 1-800-226-8584, extension 3030 or e-mail endowedgiving@flbaptist.org.