

# FINANCIAL PEACE DURING TURBULENT TIMES



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**Introduction:** What would it be like if we could have Jesus Christ as our personal financial advisor? If the omnipotent God that can see today and throughout eternity would be our ‘financial doctor’ to advise us on how to invest our resources. An advisor who could help us see the rate of return on each investment with perfect clarity. Tonight we will see God’s financial plan written specifically to us living in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century, in four clear and practical verses (Rev. 3:15-18).

## **I. The Financial Doctor assesses the symptoms (vs. 15-16)**

A. Laodiceans love material things and try to love God.

Matt. 6:24: No man can serve two masters . . . You cannot serve God and mammon.

James 1:8: A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Hosea 10:2: A divided heart will be broken.

B. Laodiceans are chameleons but God is an extremist.

Joshua 24:15: . . . choose you this day who you will serve.

C. Laodiceans are toxic to God.

‘Just like lukewarm water a lukewarm Christian life is never satisfying and it makes God sick.’

## **II. The Financial Doctor diagnoses the root cause (vs. 17)**

A. Comfortable with material things

\*Opposite of Sardis: lived in poverty but were rich (Rev. 2:8-10)

\*‘You reap the return where you invest’ (Luke 6:23-24)

B. Riches are deceiving

Prov. 13:7: earthly possessions don’t represent our true ‘net worth’

\*wretched: afflicted, constantly enduring trouble

\*miserable: pitiful

\*poor: eternally bankrupt

\*blind: can’t see spiritually or financially

\*naked: poor stewardship results in being ashamed

Gen. 3:7, 10; Exod. 32:25; Isaiah 47:3; Micah 1:11; Rev. 16:15

‘God could have identified the root cause as moral decay, forsaking the sanctity of marriage and human life, decline of family values, apostasy . . . but He says it is how we think about and handle our money and possessions.’

### **III. The Financial Doctor prescribes the remedy (vs. 18)**

‘I counsel thee to.’ (God’s advice to Laodiceans)

‘buy of me’ (to invest in God and His work)

A. Invest in assets that will withstand fire (Malachi 3:2-3)

‘Fire reveals what is temporary (houses, cars, cash) and purifies what is eternal (gold).’  
I Cor. 3:13-15

‘Wise man will lay up a financial foundation in heaven.’ Luke 12:20-21; I Tim. 6:17-19

RESULT: RICH FOR ETERNITY IN THE LORD.

B. Invest to avoid being ashamed ‘white raiment’.

1. Our adornment for the greatest event in human history. (Rev. 19:7-8, 14)

Fine Linen = righteousness of the saints

‘We are made righteous in Jesus Christ by faith (Rom. 3:22) and our works (investments) are visible evidence of our faith (James 2:17-26)

2. Dress code for the greatest worship service in Heaven (Rev. 4:1-4)

‘Investing in white raiment and gold may mean tribulation and persecution in the short term here on earth but the long-term reward is priceless.’ (Rev. 4:4,10)

Series Summary: By making wise Biblical financial decisions here we free ourselves to invest there.