

Church Investors Fund

1st Quarter - 2019

BUILDING UP THE CHURCH ONE INVESTOR AT A TIME



The Best Laid Plans

Les Collins

President
Church Investors Fund

I have written several articles on the problems that come with not planning. I am by nature a planner myself and so I have often tried to help those who don't come by it naturally. Planning is both Biblical and smart, and those who fight it usually lose out. Yet, as my father used to tell

me, you can't have an honest opinion unless you can articulate both sides of the issue.

The problem with planners by nature is that the plan can take on a life of its own. It is easy to lose track of one's own frailty among all the preparations. We have insurance,

we have retirement accounts, bank deposits and online calculators that can show us how much time we likely have left on this planet. It can all give one a false sense of security.

The truth is all we have is today - and maybe not even all of it. We make plans for retirement and then become easily frustrated when the markets go down. Such hiccups force us to face the fact that the future may not be what we hoped it would be. Yet, the future that we plan will likely never happen the way we planned it anyway. There are far too many things that will change naturally along the way.

You may have heard that one of our staff members passed away very unexpectedly early in the year. She was not sick, that we were aware, but suddenly she was gone. She was still quite young and of course had many plans. In fact, I had just helped her think through some retirement strategies, even though it was still several years away. She

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had some concerns about how it would all play out, like we all do, and those concerns naturally caused her some stress. Yet God had other plans for her, so her stress about retirement was rather unwarranted, in hindsight.

So how are we supposed to live, or plan?

That is a question that I have been pondering, considering what has happened to us here. It is a tough thing to answer because we all know people who failed to plan. In fact, there is a saying that says, **“those who fail to plan, plan to fail”**. None of us wants to be caught unprepared, and so we plan. The plan, of course, is not the problem; rather it is our reliance on the plan that causes the problem.

Simply put, our time is in God’s hand and we need to be

regularly reminded of our reliance on Him. We often forget that He also has a plan and it will be His plan that takes precedence.

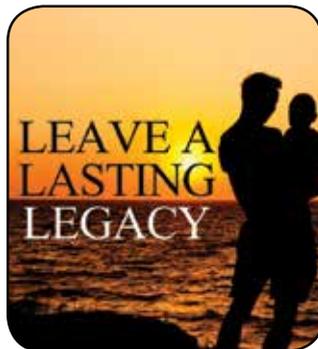
I recently came across another saying that spoke straight to me. It said, **“if you are living with depression it is because you are focusing on the past, and if you are living with anxiety it is because you are living in the future”**. Are you anxious? Maybe it is because you are thinking too much about your plan.

Yes, plans are a good thing and the Bible tells us that in many different places, but it is today that counts. So, remember to focus your energy on the here and now, because it is those decisions that will ultimately help guide our fate anyway. ■

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Focus on the Facts

“If you are living with depression it is because you are focusing on the past, and if you are living with anxiety it is because you are living in the future”.

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“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

– Isaiah 41:10



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Carrying Others' Burdens

Bob Glim

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My wife and I woke up early that morning. In fact, way too early in my opinion. It was 3:00 am when the alarm went off. Unfortunately, I had been awake since 2:30. The last few days had been restless as we prepared to travel to South Dakota for my mother-in-law's funeral. Our flight was at 5:30 am, which meant we needed to leave the house around 3:45. The plan was to drive ourselves to the airport and leave our car in long-term parking. It was going to cost us a pretty nickel to leave it there for almost a week, but what choice did we have? We didn't want to burden our friends by asking for a ride – and at 3:45 am for that matter. Plus, we would need a way back from the airport as well. No, that would be asking too much. My friend Dan had offered a couple of times to take us to the airport and pick us up, but that was just too much to ask. Wasn't it?

I must admit a flaw I have. I love helping friends and family out when they are in need, but I am horrible at accepting their generosity. I would welcome a friend calling me in the middle of night, even if it just meant they needed to talk, but I fail in letting others do the same for me.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2 NIV)

We ended up allowing Dan to bless us by driving us to and from the airport. It really served as a reminder to me that in a society that continues to push God out of their lives, there are still many wonderful God-loving people. Dan is just one example. There are many friends and family who have overwhelmed us with their love over the past few weeks, and to list them all would be almost impossible.

It is during the difficult times that our true love and trust in God will shine the most. Unfortunately, we often question God and His perfect plan. The pain is so unbearable that we simply can't see any way it could be a good thing. There have been times of struggle in my life where I quickly see God's plan. Other times it takes a while before I see how God's plan is far better than anything I imagined. Yet other times I believe we simply

are not meant to know. We simply must have faith.

As I have grown older, I have noticed how God continues to send us help through other people. They help us to see the things we can't see in the darkness and to find the hope we need to get us through the difficult times. They demonstrate God's love and mercy.

2019 so far has been a year of loss for me, but it has also been a year of great gain as I have been able to clearly see God's love through those we lost. Hopefully I can be more giving of my love and more accepting of the love from others.

Maybe God is calling you to be the answer to someone else's prayers, or maybe He is sending people to you as an answer to your prayers. Either way, I pray you allow yourself to feel God's love – in whatever form it may come.

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." (Proverbs 11:25)  By: Bob Glim





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