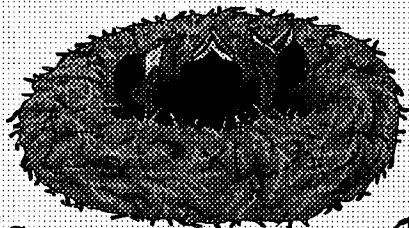
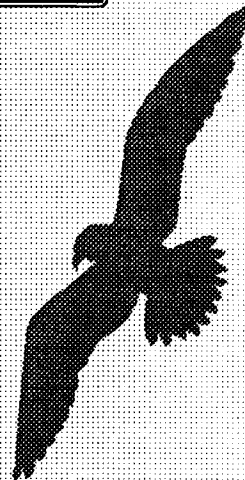


*'They shall  
mount up...*

# ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings  
as eagles."  
Isaiah 40:31*



## AERY NUGGETS

Dear Investors,

Have you checked the market lately? Naturally, investments are made with the intention of earning a profit, some for a short-term gain and others for a long-term gain. To follow our investment it is usual to scan business reports on it. How discouraging, to receive quarterly statements showing a beginning balance of a certain value and a closing balance showing a considerable loss in value. When this becomes a pattern the question arises in our minds, "Was this a wise investment?"

How can we be sure that an investment is wise? While some prudent steps can be taken, financial planners suggest a mixture of investments, with the hope that if some lose value, others will increase. Some types of investments are speculative, while others have an assured increase.

Besides market fluctuations, there is always the danger of the investment receiver going bankrupt or unscrupulous individuals mishandling your investment. This is not meant to be an instructive article on investing, nor a warning

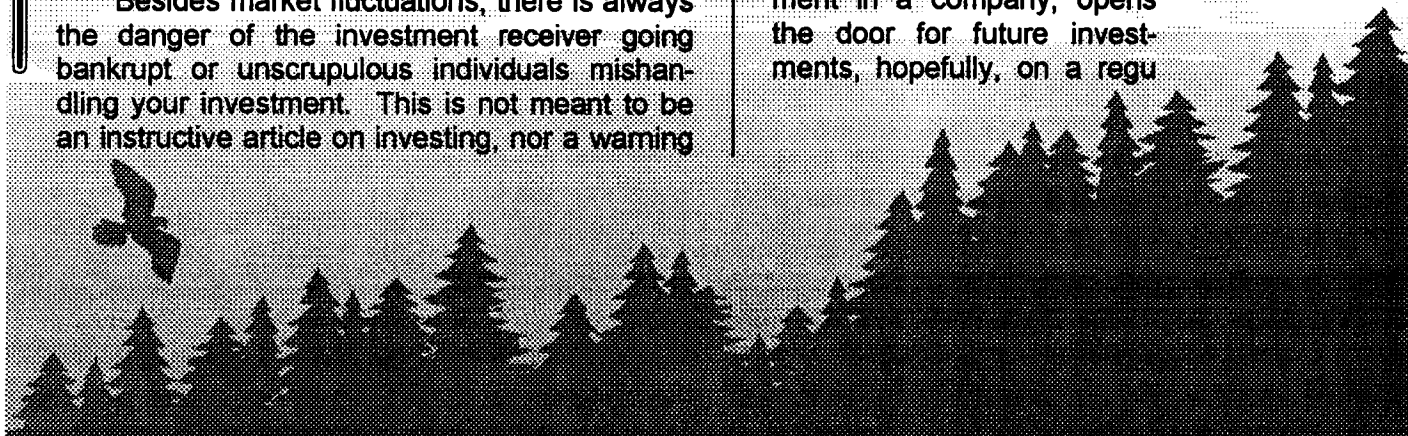
against it, but to make each one aware of our openings and responsibilities as spiritual investors.

Yes, we are just that! Spiritual investors! The first investment to be concerned over is our soul. Does not the Scripture say, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul." (Mark 8:36)

A very prosperous farmer enjoying an exceptional harvest decided to retire early and live a life of ease, taking no thought for the future, when God said to him, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee." (Luke 12:20)

These verses not only show the comparative value of our souls, but also the need of having them placed in the right hands. The apostle Paul, in turning to the Lord from his pursuit of honor in this scene, suffered the loss of all things which he had previously held dear, saying, "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (2 Timothy 1:12)

Making an initial investment in a company, opens the door for future investments, hopefully, on a regu



lar basis. Just so, those who have committed the keeping of their souls into the Lord's hands are counseled and invited to choose heavenly investing, with the admonition to, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matt 6:19 & 20).

What kind of currency can be used to make heavenly investments; and where is it deposited? First of all, God desires our whole being to be turned over to Himself that our, "Whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thes. 5:23). With all we have and are turned over to our Heavenly Father, we can have an attitude toward others, whom we can serve, as if we were the last of the big spenders, saying, "I will very gladly spend and be spent for you." (2 Cor. 12:15).

While seeking to earn our salvation by works instead of faith in Jesus Christ is a fruitless investment, the reality of our salvation can be manifested when we follow the admonition, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men." (Gal. 6:10), and again, "To do good....forget not." (Heb.13:16). By investing our energy in heavenly service, though it is expended on earth, and poured out on earthlings, fruit unto God is produced.

Some investments are added to sporadically, but we are to allow the Lord to enable us to, "Offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." (Heb 13:15). How pleased God is to receive our heartfelt praise.

Our figurative heart is the source of our thought process, which is also part of our potential investment program. While a continual variety of thoughts race through our minds, we are exhorted to be, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (2 Cor.10:5). Idle thoughts can take up much of our time, so we are enjoined to invest our time on. "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things". (Phil 4:8).

An area we have to guard against the intrusion of thieves is our time. How many demands are made in the use of our time, and often we are the one who is using it for our own pleasure rather than employing it for the performance of one or more of

the foregoing investment possibilities. How much occupied are we with the Lord's things? If we have not developed priorities for the way we invest our time, usually the first thing to suffer is our reading of, and meditating on God's word. Paul said to Timothy, "Till I come give attendance to reading..." and, "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all." (1 Tim. 4:13a & 15)

Perhaps many reading this are living on limited means and the subject of "giving" is painful to them, as they are not able to minister of their substance in the amount they might like to give. While much emphasis may be expressed as to the great needs in certain circles, God does not over-burden anyone, "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." (2 Cor. 8:12). Giving under pressure is not God's way, "For God loveth a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7).

God does not issue CD's (Certificates of Deposits), publish interest rates or maturity dates, nor are His accounts insured by FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation), and yet His promise is, "He which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." (2 Cor. 9:6).

Diligence in investing with the Lord, even though the outcome may not be predictable, is encouraged by the words, "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days..." and, "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whither shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good." (Eccl. 11:6).

Sowing in the morning also carries with it the thought that we can start making our spiritual investments when we are young. The words, "Even a child is known by his doings" (Prov. 20:11) bears out too that youth is no barrier to investing what the Lord has given to us for Him.

While continuing to make spiritual investments in various ways, "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward" (Heb. 10:35). Above all, read and study the prospectus which God has prepared for us - the Bible.

Yours, awaiting the heavenly dividend period,

*Leslie L. Winters*

For address correction or free new name addition, write to:  
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