

## **FOLLOW – The Best Investment**

**November 5-6, 2022**

**Romans 13:11-12 (NIV)** - “And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light”.

**Proverbs 11:24-25 (NIV)** - “One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed”.

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen; not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else” – **C.S. Lewis**

**2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (NIV)** – “And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us”.

“**joy**” = Greek *charah* – “gladness, delight, source of joy”; related to *chairō* – “to rejoice because of grace”, and *charis* – “grace”

“The example of the Macedonians is practical proof that true generosity is not the prerogative of those who enjoy an adequacy of means. The most genuine liberality is frequently displayed by those who have least to give. Christian giving is estimated in terms not of quantity but of sacrifice” –

**Philip Hughes**

**Luke 21:1-4 (NIV)** – As Jesus looked up, He saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. “Truly I tell you”, He said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on”.

**Romans 12:1 (NIV)** - “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship”.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV)** – “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”.

“**cheerful**” = Greek *hilaros* – “joyous, cheerful, not grudging”; English “hilarious”

**2 Corinthians 9:10-11 (NIV)** – “Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God”.

**1 Corinthians 12:26 (NIV)** - “If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it”.

“Every child saved with my help is the justification of my existence on this earth, and not a title to glory” – **Irena Sendler**

**Mark 8:35-36 (NIV)** – “For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?”

**Philippians 4:14-17 (NIV)** – “Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account”.