

*And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’” ’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’” This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God. **Luke 12:16–21 (NIV)***

HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM YOUR MONEY

1. GIVE YOURSELF TO GOD

*“If one first gives himself to the Lord, all other giving is easy”
- John Bonnell*

*You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.
1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NIV)*

2. ACT LIKE A STEWARD, NOT AN OWNER

*The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;
Psalm 24:1 (NIV)*

*But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.
Deuteronomy 8:18 (NIV)*

3. TAKE A LONG TERM VIEW

*Each one of these people of faith died not yet having in hand what was promised, but still believing. How did they do it? They saw it way off in the distance, waved their greeting, and accepted the fact that they were transients in this world. People who live this way make it plain that they are looking for their true home. If they were homesick for the old country, they could have gone back any time they wanted. But they were after a far better country than that— heaven country. You can see why God is so proud of them, and has a City waiting for them. **Hebrews 11:13–16 (MSG)***

*He (Moses) chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.
Hebrews 11:25–26 (NIV)*

4. BE INTENTIONAL WITH YOUR RESOURCES

*Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving. **2 Corinthians 9:6–7 (MSG)***