

Ron Armstrong • February 8 & 9, 2020
The Latte Factor: Rules to Rule a 1,000 little Foxes

Song of Solomon 2:15 Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom. (NIV)

Malachi 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. (KJ)

Proverbs 21:20 The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets. (LB)

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (KJ)

Rule #1: You need a written spending plan that includes your income, tithe, savings, and expenses.

A. Rule #2: Keep investing in your earning ability. It's your most VALUABLE asset.

1. Change is going to keep coming, and it's going to come faster and faster. Don't get caught ASLEEP.
2. You have to prepare for multiple paths, often before you can see them.

B. Rule #3: Make tithing, saving, debt reduction, and any other good thing AUTOMATIC.

1. Things that get set on automatic get done.

2. Try to start with 10-10-80, but no matter what; START.

3. The 401k, 403b, traditional IRA, Roth IRA are like taxis: To get anywhere, you have to get in and tell them where to go.

C. Rule #4: Be a CAUTIOUS, smart investor.

1. Cautious because that is what consistently works. "Get rich quick" usually means, "Get poor fast." Slow and steady wins.
2. Smart means we know that diversification and fees matter. Use an index U.S. stock fund, an index international stock fund, and an index bond fund.
3. Smart means that we know the difference between an investment, JOB, and hybrid.
 - a. An investment means the money does the work.
 - b. In a job, you do the work.
 - c. In a hybrid investment, you both work, such as real estate or putting money into a BUSINESS.

D. Rule #5: Buy a HOUSE. But make sure:

1. You can afford the payment without staying up all night worrying.
2. You plan on owning it for five years or longer.
3. You commit to only one 30-year mortgage.
4. Build your business/career before your house.

E. Rule #6: Treat every financial decision like a SPIRITUAL decision (because it is).

1. Every purchase, payment, and obligation is DRIVEN by something.
2. Your heart-treasure connection matters.