

## **Retirement Planning from a Christian Perspective**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **How is the class structured for 2024?**

We offer this retirement planning class using **two different formats**. Both formats offer access to the same 9 total hours of video lessons and 241 pages of printed class notes.

During the Summer, we offer a completely self-paced version of the class. After you register anytime between June 3 & August 5, we mail you the printed class notes and give you access to all the class videos through October 31. You can watch the videos as slowly or as quickly as you desire. If you have questions about the class content, you can contact either Art or Crystal by email for explanations.

During the Fall, we offer a more interactive version of the class. You'll receive the printed class notes upon registration, which begins about August 19. However, the video lessons will not start being released until the class "Kick-off" on October 15. After that, video lessons are released weekly on Tuesdays over the next 6 weeks. Each week's video lessons will require between 1 and 2 hours to watch. You'll also have the option to attend weekly, live Class Discussions which are hosted on Zoom. These discussions are recorded and made available for you to watch if you are unable to attend the live Class Discussion. Your access to all the class videos lasts through January 15, 2025.

#### **Does this class only cover financial topics?**

No. This class actually focuses on 5 areas of retirement living that benefit from thoughtful planning: *Meaningful Activities*, *Social Connections*, *Physical Health*, *Spiritual Life* and (importantly) *Finances*. More time is spent on financial topics than on the other topics, but all are important.

#### SOME OF THE CLASS TOPICS

Purposeful Retirement	Managing Your Personal Assets
Aging and Longevity	Deciding When to Retire
Retirement Spending and Budgeting	Planning for Meaningful Activities
Income from Pensions and Annuities	Long Term Care in Retirement
Understanding Social Security	Spiritual Aspects of Retirement
Planning for Your Physical Health	Taxes and Tithes in Retirement
Medical Expenses in Retirement	Enhancing Your Social Connections

#### **In what sense does this class offer a "Christian Perspective" towards retirement planning?**

We emphasize that a successful retirement requires planning for the non-financial aspects of retirement living. *It's not just about the money!* But unlike many

classes offered by Christian organizations, our class deals with the financial topics, and does so in a sophisticated manner. Yet even here, we bring in uniquely Christian viewpoints about financial wealth and how it should be managed.

### **How often is the class material updated?**

The videos and associated printed notes are given minor updates every Spring. These changes mainly reflect changes to medical insurance costs and federal tax bracket changes from the prior Fall. Major changes to some video lessons occur every several years.

### **Do I need to live in a particular state to benefit from this class?**

No. The class is purposefully designed to be applicable to either singles or married couples living anywhere in the U.S.

### **What are your qualifications for discussing the financial aspects of retirement?**

Art, who teaches about the financial topics, is a *Retirement Income Certified Professional (RICP®)* and has a Master's degree in financial planning for retirement (*MSFS*). He also works part-time as an *Adjunct Instructor* for **The American College of Financial Services'** *RICP®* program, where he helps train professional financial advisors to perform competent retirement income planning.

### **I'm new to thinking about finances; will this class be over my head? I know quite a bit about financial topics—will this class be too basic?**

This is an intermediate level class. We cover the basic ideas, but also move on to more in-depth discussions about both financial and non-financial topics. Class participants have consistently told us that Art explains the financial topics in a manner that makes them easy to grasp.

### **Am I too young / too old to benefit from this class?**

This class is primarily targeted at singles and married couples in the 50 to 70 age range. Even those who have been retired for several years can learn a great deal from this class. However, the level of detail provided in our video lessons is somewhat more than most people in their 30's or 40's would find relevant. The exception to this would be those who are aiming for a very early retirement (e.g. the **FIRE** movement – **F**inancial Independence, **R**etire **E**arly).

### **I have enough money saved for retirement, so why should I attend?**

You also need to gain an understanding of the non-financial aspects of retirement planning (*Meaningful Activities, Social Connections, Physical Health, and Spiritual Life*). Our discussions on these topics will provide critical guidance for your happy retirement.

**My spouse takes care of our finances, so do I need to attend?**

Actually, it is important for both spouses to understand the financial concepts. In many cases the less financially knowledgeable spouse is the one who lives the longest and will need the information. Both spouses are covered by the \$35 registration fee.

**I am already working with a financial planner. Will I benefit by attending?**

Definitely! The financial topics we cover will help you understand the reasoning behind your financial planner's recommendations. That will help you be a more effective partner in the planning process.

**We have been to free dinners /seminars in the past where it was clear that the presenter wanted new clients. Is this the case with this class?**

No! Crystal and Art are volunteer (unpaid) financial educators, not financial advisors looking for clients. They have no connection whatsoever to any stock brokerage, investment advisory or insurance firm. They present adult education classes out of a passion to help others prepare for a meaningful and satisfying retirement.

**I prefer to do my own financial planning. How will I benefit from this class?**

This class discusses most aspects of retirement financial planning. If there is something you've overlooked, you'll discover it from either the video lessons or the *Extra Info* sections of the class notes. Every topic covered in the class notes has footnotes to primary source materials, which can help you deepen your own understanding. The *Additional References* suggestions point you towards the very best books on the various topics. And lastly, you'll get to ask Art detailed questions by email, plus get to listen as he answers your and others' questions during the weekly discussion times hosted on Zoom.