Academic / Semiacademic Book Proposal

The Way of Capital

Christian Investing in a Sinful World

Robert Brooks, Ph.D., CFA

Project Synopsis

Working title	**The Way of Capital: Christian Investing in a Sinful World**
Author	Robert Brooks, Ph.D., CFA
Category	Christian theology and economics; faith and work; Christian social thought; ethics of finance; stewardship; investment practice
Manuscript status	Complete draft available: approximately 148,000 words; 14 chapters; 2 appendices; 10 tables; practical "The Way Applied" and "Making the Connection" features throughout.
Proposed final length	Substantial monograph / serious crossover text. The author is willing to streamline repetitions and move selected full Scripture quotations or technical material to online resources, if necessary, but the proposal is not for a drastically shortened trade edition. A significantly shortened and more widely accessible sequel is envisioned.
Primary audience	Christian scholars, pastors, thoughtful lay readers, Christian financial advisors (CKAs), Christian university faculty, graduate and upper-level undergraduate students, and leaders in Biblically Responsible Investing.
Pedagogical use	Primary or supplementary text for courses in Christian ethics, faith and work, theology and economics, stewardship, business ethics, finance and society, and Christian worldview applied to economic life.

Thesis

Capital is not ultimate; Christ is. Therefore financial capital must be understood as temporary entrusted wealth, while metaphysical capital—wisdom, prudence, righteousness, diligence, trust, contentment, and the fear of the Lord—provides the deeper foundation for faithful valuation, portfolio management, and Christian marketplace participation.

Book Description

The Way of Capital develops a biblically grounded account of capital formation and capital management for Christians living and investing in a sinful yet abundantly provisioned world. It argues that the Christian worldview offers a more coherent foundation for finance than naturalism or morally neutral technical finance because Scripture addresses the underlying realities that shape markets: God's ownership, human creativity, human sin, moral accountability, time, uncertainty, stewardship, generosity, and the final lordship of Jesus Christ.

The book is not a budgeting manual and not simply a defense of Biblically Responsible Investing. It is a constructive interdisciplinary work that asks how Christian theology and philosophy should shape the way believers understand capital itself. The practical center of the book is investment decision-making: financial instrument valuation and portfolio management. The theological center is the claim that the goal of capital is not more capital, but faithfulness.

Rationale: Why the Book Is Needed

- Christian financial literature often emphasizes budgeting, debt reduction, generosity, and personal stewardship, but rarely develops a full theological and philosophical account of capital, valuation, and portfolio management.
- Secular finance is technically sophisticated but generally silent about God, sin, providence, moral order, metaphysical capital, and eternal purpose.
- The rise of Biblically Responsible Investing has created practical questions that require deeper foundations: What counts as moral participation? What does ownership imply? How should Christian investors think about risk, screening, passive indexing, active management, derivatives, economic forecasting, and corporate engagement?
- Christian colleges, seminaries, pastors, advisors, and thoughtful investors need a serious but readable work that connects Scripture, theology, philosophy, financial economics, and practical investing without collapsing into either prosperity-gospel optimism or fear-driven scarcity.
- The author's unusual combination of academic finance, CFA credentials, Christian teaching, and BRI-related writing positions him to write a book few theologians or finance professionals could write alone.

Argument and Contribution

The book's original contribution is its framework for reading capital through the interaction of two biblical realities: God's Loving Abundance and Human Sinful Depravity. God created, sustains, and governs a world filled with productive potential. Because human beings bear God's image, they can create, cultivate, innovate, build, organize, invest, and bless others through capital. Yet the same human beings distort, exploit, deceive, envy, speculate, oppress, and misuse capital. Faithful capital management requires seeing both realities at the same time.

This framework is then applied repeatedly to the two practical pillars of investment practice: valuation and portfolio management. Valuation is not merely mathematical; present value, expectations, and future cash flows all rest upon assumptions about time, trust, moral order, productivity, risk, and human behavior. Portfolio management is not merely return maximization; it is stewardship under uncertainty. The book therefore integrates finance with biblical theology, Christian philosophy, moral formation, and practical wisdom.

The book also introduces and develops the distinction between physical capital and metaphysical capital. Physical capital includes measurable assets, money, securities, property, businesses, and ownership claims. Metaphysical capital includes wisdom, prudence, diligence, integrity, trustworthiness, contentment, and the fear of the Lord. The book argues that metaphysical capital often determines whether physical capital is acquired righteously, managed wisely, preserved fruitfully, and passed forward faithfully.

Methodology and Disciplinary Location

The project is constructive rather than merely comparative. It proceeds from an explicitly Christian, presuppositional foundation and asks what finance looks like when the Bible is treated as authoritative for all of life. The book interacts with Scripture, Christian theology, Christian philosophy, financial economics, investment theory, business ethics, capital-market evidence, and selected case examples. It is written for educated nonspecialists but with enough conceptual depth to serve academic and seminary settings.

The book's disciplinary location is best described as Christian theology and economics, with secondary placement in Christian ethics, faith and work, finance and society, practical theology, and Christian worldview studies. It is not a narrow technical finance text, though it contains financial rigor. Nor is it a generic Christian living text, though it remains readable and pastoral in places. Its most natural category is semiacademic Christian social thought applied to capital and investing.

Structure and Reader Experience

The manuscript contains four parts. Each chapter begins with an opening quote and key Bible passage. Each chapter returns to financial instrument valuation and managing investment portfolios. The manuscript also includes practical callout boxes titled “The Way Applied” and mini-case features titled “Making the Connection.” These features give the book classroom usability and help readers move from worldview to practice.

- Part 1, Various Ways to Capital, contrasts rival ways of understanding capital: Psalm 1’s two ways, Abraham’s way, Jesus as the Way, and naturalism versus Christianity.
- Part 2, The Foundations of Capital, develops theology, philosophy, and time as foundational categories for capital formation and investment practice.
- Part 3, The Divine Way of Capital, applies the resurrection, biblical capital formation, valuation, portfolio management, and economic forecasting to Christian investing.
- Part 4, Faithful Stewardship in a Sinful World, addresses marketplace participation, practical investing, BRI, passive and active management, uncertainty, creativity, human depravity, and contentment.

Annotated Table of Contents

Section / Chapter	Description
Part 1. Various Ways to Capital	*Introduces the overarching contrast between God’s way and Not God’s way and establishes the relationship between physical capital and metaphysical capital.*
1. Introduction	Defines capital, distinguishes physical and metaphysical capital, introduces God’s Loving Abundance and Human Sinful Depravity, and frames valuation and portfolio management as the two recurring investment pillars.
2. The Way of Abraham	Uses Abraham, Lot, Isaac, Jacob, Solomon, and Job to explore calling, possessions, promise, wisdom, generational stewardship, and the danger of visible prosperity detached from righteousness.
3. Jesus, The Only Way	Places Jesus Christ at the center of the book’s account of capital and contrasts the way of Jesus, the early church, and the biblical gospel with prosperity-gospel distortions.
4. The Nature of Nature: Two Ways	Contrasts naturalism and Christianity as rival accounts of reality and applies that contrast to risk, uncertainty, discounting, expectations, cash flows, and portfolio theory.
Part 2. The Foundations of Capital	*Develops the theological, philosophical, and temporal foundations necessary for any coherent Christian account of capital.*
5. Biblical Theology and Capital	Connects ownership, stewardship, work, leverage, diligence, appetite, contentment, and Christian doctrinal foundations to valuation and portfolio management.
6. Christian Philosophy and Capital	Examines logic, intelligibility, empiricism, epistemology, truth, and ethics using financial examples such as Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers.
7. Biblical View of Time	Explores time, patience, uncertainty, Sabbath, hurry, borrowing, compounding, and long-horizon investing through a biblical account of chronos and kairos.
Part 3. The Divine Way of Capital	*Shows how resurrection, providence, capital formation, valuation, management, and forecasting look when interpreted under Christian truth.*
8. The Resurrection Principle: Winning While Losing	Argues that the resurrection overturns ordinary calculations of gain and loss and reorients capital toward courage, sacrifice, endurance, and eternal hope.
9. Biblically-Based Capital Formation	Explores the metaphysical nature of capital and the institutional preconditions of flourishing markets: intelligibility, property rights, rule of law, trust, diligence, saving, generosity, and family formation.
10. Biblically-Based Valuation and Management	Examines debt, equity, and derivatives, then applies biblical wisdom to valuation, ownership, screening, stewardship, and defined-contribution plan accommodation.
11. Economic Forecasting	Contrasts wise discernment with forbidden forecasting and applies biblical humility to interest rates, inflation, economics, and portfolio management.

Section / Chapter	Description
Part 4. Faithful Stewardship in a Sinful World	*Applies the framework to Christian marketplace participation, investment practice, BRI, and the final goal of capital.*
12. Christian Marketplace Participation	Connects doxology, theology, philosophy, business, mission, volition, Bitcoin, God's abundance, and portfolio management within the marketplace.
13. Christian Investing in a Sinful World	Addresses uncertainty, bond and stock market evidence, market timing, efficient markets, passive indexing, SPIVA, BRI, dispersion risk, psychology, creativity, and human depravity.
14. The Goal of Capital: Contentment, Wisdom, and Faithfulness	Concludes with contentment rooted in God's presence, the finished work of Christ, wisdom more valuable than gold, entrusted capital, generosity, patient valuation, and faithful portfolio discipline.
Appendix A. Resurrection of Jesus Christ	Provides a fuller apologetic and theological treatment of the resurrection and its relevance for finance, culture, and capital.
Appendix B. Economic Forecasting of Interest Rates and Inflation	Extends the forecasting discussion with historical evidence on interest-rate and inflation forecasting and biblical passages related to inflation and fleeting wealth.

Primary Readers and Course Uses

The book is designed for educated Christian readers who want more than basic personal-finance advice and more than a surface-level endorsement of values-based investing. The ideal reader is comfortable with Scripture, Christian doctrine, and investment vocabulary, but does not need advanced mathematical training.

- Christian university and seminary faculty teaching courses in Christian ethics, economics, business, finance, marketplace theology, stewardship, or faith and work.
- Graduate and upper-level undergraduate students in Christian business, economics, finance, theology, ethics, and leadership programs.
- Christian financial advisors (especially CKAs), CFA charterholders, investment committee members, retirement-plan fiduciaries, and BRI practitioners seeking a deeper worldview framework.
- Pastors, elders, and church leaders who counsel believers about wealth, work, stewardship, generosity, moral compromise, and the marketplace.
- Thoughtful lay readers, especially Christian investors who already understand basic financial principles and want an integrated theological framework.

Potential courses include: Theology and Economics; Christian Business Ethics; Faith, Work, and Economics; Stewardship and Vocation; Christian Social Thought; Personal Finance and Discipleship; Biblical Theology of Work and Wealth; Investments and Society; Ethics of Finance; and Financial Markets from a Christian Worldview.

Comparable and Related Works

The book occupies space near several conversations but does not duplicate any one of them. It is more theological than standard investment books, more technically informed than most Christian stewardship works, more explicitly Christian than behavioral-finance treatments of money and meaning, and more practical than many academic theology-and-economics volumes.

Related work / category	What category contributes	How The Way of Capital differs
Christian stewardship and personal finance resources (Crown, Ramsey)	Practical help on budgeting, debt, generosity, and household decisions.	This book operates at the level of capital, markets, valuation, investment instruments, portfolio management, and worldview foundations.
Faith and work / marketplace theology (Keller)	Important theological grounding for vocation, work, business, and calling.	This book extends the discussion into financial instruments, public markets, BRI, forecasting, and portfolio practice.
Behavioral finance and money-and-meaning books (Coleman)	Insight into investor psychology, purpose, emotional framing, and mistakes.	This book argues that behavioral accounts remain incomplete without sin, grace, providence, worship, and Christ.

Related work / category	What category contributes	How The Way of Capital differs
Mark Spitznagel, The Dao of Capital; Pulak Prasad, What I Learned About Investing from Darwin	Long-horizon investing frameworks built from philosophical or naturalistic foundations.	This book values long-horizon discipline but replaces naturalism or non-Christian foundations with a Christian account of creation, fall, resurrection, stewardship, and contentment.
BRI / faith-based investing materials (Netzly)	Practical screening, product-level application, and faith-aligned portfolio construction.	This book supplies a deeper theological and philosophical framework for why Christian investing should be biblically coherent, not merely values-branded.

Author Qualifications and Platform

Robert Brooks is a Ph.D. in Finance and a CFA charterholder with more than forty years of academic and industry experience in finance, including quantitative finance. His background gives the book unusual credibility in both investment theory and practical capital management. He has taught finance in secular university settings, written finance materials, consulted professionally, and continues to write and teach on the intersection of Christian worldview and finance.

The manuscript itself notes that portions of the material have been taught at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and refined through writing and reader interaction on the author’s Substack publication, Christian Worldview and Finance, as well as through the Biblically Responsible Investor Quarterly Newsletter. The author also writes from a conservative Christian theological perspective.

- Academic credibility: Ph.D. in Finance; CFA charterholder; decades of university teaching and professional finance work.
- Professional credibility: President of Financial Risk Management, LLC; consulting and writing on finance, risk, valuation, and investment practice.
- Theological and ministry credibility: long-term church teaching ministry and sustained engagement with Scripture, Christian worldview, and financial discipleship.
- Audience platform:
  - General background at personal website
  - Substack publication Christian Worldview and Finance
  - Biblically Responsible Investor Quarterly Newsletter
  - Professional consulting relationships through Financial Risk Management, LLC
  - Interactions with advisors and investment professionals (cofounder of Blue Creek Investment Partners, LLC now part of Keel Point, LLC)
  - Decades of speaking engagements, including undergraduate, masters, PhD, executive MBAs, and executive training in university settings as well as church and parachurch settings (e.g., Bible studies at home church)