

OUTLINE – BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP FOR TODAY

- 1) **Biblical Stewardship Overview**
- 2) Money – Making Money is Easy, Keeping it is the Hard Part
- 3) Debt – The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly
- 4) Tithing – The New Testament Way
- 5) Benevolence Giving
- 6) God’s Wisdom on Money
- 7) God’s Economy
- 8) Prosperity Preaching – Pros & Cons
- 9) Attitude is the Key for God to Bless
- 10) Biblical Investing vs Gambling
- 11) Retirement and Taxes

INTRODUCTION / GOALS / OBJECTIVES

- We all would enjoy having more money to live on, to support God’s work, and to share with the needy – ALL very admirable desires
- BUT, do we need more money to accomplish God’s will?
 - ♦ There is no guarantee God will bless any of us materially (e.g., widow w/ 2 mites, the destitute widows of [1 Tim 5](#), the Apostles), but we want to be positioned to be blessed....[Ps 84:11](#); [Ecc 5:19](#)
- AND, would having more money really make us more like Jesus?

TEST QUESTIONS

- Do we live in a Growing Economy? Stable Economy? Or a Collapsing Economy?
- In the near term (1-5 years), will things Get Better? Stay the Same? Get Worse? Or Don’t Know; Don’t Care
- In the long term (5-10 years), will things Get Better? Stay the Same? Get Worse? Or Don’t Know; Don’t Care

➔ **YOUR Answers Determine What YOU Need To Do** ◀

SOME THOUGHTS ON MONEY AS FOUND IN THE BIBLE

- Almost half (17 out of 38) of the Lord’s parables are about Money
- Money is talked about more than Heaven or Hell
- Only the topic of Love exceeds that of money in the NT
- Out of 31,101 Bible verses, 2,172 (~7%) deal directly with wealth
 - ♦ But there are only 272 verses on believing; 371 verses on prayer; and 714 verses on loving (1/3 as many as money)
- More than 10% of all wealth passages are in Proverbs (~250 verses)

➔ **Obviously, God Considers Money an Important Topic** ◀

Is God more concerned about what is in our checking accounts or what is in our hearts?

- **We need to have God’s perspective on Wealth.** But our fallen sin nature distorts our view, and we have things backwards a lot.
- It is God that brings poverty and gives wealth[1Samuel 2:7](#)
- God has no problem removing money away from us, His children, if it becomes a hindrance to our spiritual growth
- THEREFORE, we need to evaluate our hearts for GREED, then we can better position ourselves to be blessedBUT HOW?
 - ♦ Obedient living
 - ♦ Trusting God to keep His word to meet our needs DAILY
 - ♦ **Illustration on Greed**.....[Ephesians 5:1-6](#)



MORE BIBLICAL CONCEPTS ABOUT WEALTH

- Must watch out for GREED or covetousness for God puts it in the same category as idolatry, immorality, & blasphemy: ([Ex 18:21](#); [Ps 119:36](#); [Pr 21:26](#); [Ecc 5:10-12](#); [Jer 8:10](#); [Mr 7:20-23](#); [Lk 12:15](#); [Rom 1:29](#); [Col 3:5](#); [Eph 5:3-5](#); [1 Cor 6:10](#); [1 Tim 6:10](#); [Heb 13:5](#))
- Prosperity on earth is not guaranteed ([Pr 27:24](#)), but Peace & Contentment are ([Phil 4:7-13](#), [Isa 55:2](#))
- Most of our toil is not to survive ([Ecc 6:7](#)) but because of envy of our neighbor ([Ecc 4:4](#))
- “It is more blessed to give than to receive” [Acts 20:35](#)
- God is a God of percentages – He blesses **proportionally** to one’s ability to give, but not always materially ([Prov 11:31](#), [Rom 11:35](#)). Some 30x, some 60x, some 100x [Mat 13:23](#)
- What is the source of all of all of our problems? [1Tim 6:10](#); [Jms 4:1](#)
- Where is our true wealth retained? [Ephesians 1:3](#)
- THEREFORE, we need to be more focused on the things of God (Heavenly-minded) instead of so earthly focused [John 6:27](#)
 - ♦ The phrase “He’s so heavenly-minded he’s no earthly good” is not Biblical. We need to be very heavenly-minded
- And what should be our true desire? God or money? [Ps 73:25](#) - and we have to discipline ourselves for this desire
- We even need to treasure God’s Word above everything [Pr 7:2](#)

RIGHT PERSPECTIVES ON MONEY

1. To meet the needs of family [1 Timothy 5:8](#)
2. To further the Gospel.....[Philippians 4:14-18](#)
3. To care for the poor [Proverbs 19:17](#); [Matthew 19:21](#)
4. To give more [Proverbs 21:26b](#), [Acts 20:35](#)

MANY TIMES CHRISTIANS ARE IN FINANCIAL WOES BECAUSE OF...

1. Poor stewardship / Not prioritizing life [Pr 24:27](#)
2. Godly testing [Job](#)
3. For discipline reasons, and [Jer 5:25](#)
4. At other times we find ourselves in financial hardships because it rains on the just as well as the unjust [Mat 5:45](#)

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / BENEFITS

- We must position ourselves to be blessed
 - ♦ Live a godly life and be diligent in your faith, including in the area of giving/generosity [Psalm 84:11](#); [Ecc 5:19](#)
 - ♦ It’s OK to pray for prosperity & for needs to be met – but let God be God & trust Him to meet your needs as He sees fit [3 John 2](#)
- “How we handle money is a strong indicator of our level of spiritual maturity” – Larry Burkett.

NEXT WEEK: Making Money is Easy, Keeping it is the Hard Part

- According to Solomon, money is the answer to everything – BUT is it? [Ecc 10:19](#)

