

Money – A Basic Biblical Perspective

“There are more than 2,000 Scriptures that speak about money and possession in the Bible (CFC 128¹).” The fundamental teaching of the Scriptures about money is that of stewardship. A steward is one who manages another’s property or financial affairs which have been entrusted to their care. God says in Psalm 50:12: *“The world is mine, and all that is in it.”* Since God is the original supplier of all you possess, you are accountable to Him to manage your resources well.

WHAT’S THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT MONEY?

According to Deut. 8:17-18 and 1 Chron. 29:19, what do we discover about wealth?

“¹⁷You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” ¹⁸But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth...” Deut. 8:17-18 NIV

“¹²Wealth and honor come from you (God); you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.” 1 Chron. 29:12 NIV

How should you feel about all that God gives you according to Ecc. 5:19?

“¹⁹Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil-- this is a gift of God.”

How should you feel about all that God gives you according to 1 Tim. 6:17?

“¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.”

Paraphrase Ecc. 5:10: “Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.”

¹ *Countdown for Couples*. ©2008 by Dale and Susan Mathis. A Focus on the Family book published by Tyndale House Publishers Inc. Carol Stream, Illinois 60188

List the attitudes and principles that Paul gives regarding money in 1 Tim. 6:6-10.

"⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

From the parable in Luke 12:13-21:

Why did Jesus caution against covetousness?

Why do you think God called the rich man a fool?

What application of the parable did Jesus make?

What important attitude does do we see in Phil. 4:11-13?

"¹¹I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

USING MONEY WISELY...RATHER THAN IT USING YOU

How should the necessities for a family be provided according to 2 Thess. 3:10-12?

"¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat." ¹¹We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. ¹²Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat."

What do these verses teach about financial responsibility toward family members?

"⁵But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is 'devoted to God,' ⁶they are not to 'honor their father or mother' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition." Matt. 15:5-6

"Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." 1 Tim. 5:8 NIV

Is it wrong to go into debt? (circle your answer) Yes No It depends on _____

What does Prov. 22:7 say about the relationship of a borrower to a lender?

"The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender."

List some things you say is ok to go into debt for? What's not ok?

WHAT'S THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT GIVING?

2 Cor. 8:5 suggests the first principle of giving. What is it?

"And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us."

List other principles that you find in 2 Cor. 9:6-12 about giving.

What does 2 Cor. 8:12 tell us in regards to how much to give?

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have."

To whom should you give according to Deut. 15:11?

"There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land."

To whom should you give according to 1 Cor. 9:14 & Gal. 6:6?

Galatians 6:6 - "Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor."

1 Corinthians 9:14 - "In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel."

What further principles do you find in Mal. 3:10 and 1 Cor. 16:2?

Mal. 3:10 - "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

1 Cor. 16:2 - "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made."
