

## Week 2

### V. Review

#### A. Review the Biblical Principle

1. Last weeks principle was taken from Psalm 24:1

Psalm 24:1 *“The earth is the LORD’S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.”*

- a. God owns everything...we own nothing
  - b. That makes us stewards
2. Understanding our place in God’s order should help us have a proper view of...
    - a. Who We Are
      - i. Stewards...
      - ii. We have responsibilities but not rights
    - b. What We Have
      - i. It is God’s...Not ours
      - ii. He may redistribute it as he wills...hold it lightly
      - iii. God is sovereign over all so don’t need to be anxious
    - c. What We Are Doing
      - i. Using our finances to fulfill God’s purposes
      - ii. Using our finances to bring glory to God
      - iii. Viewing every financial decision as a spiritual decision

#### B. Review Practical Finance

1. What is a Budget?
  - a. It is the Spending Plan that supports your household’s Financial Plan
  - b. It is a tool that helps you allocate limited resources in a world of unlimited alternatives
  - c. It is a tool to help us exercise discipline
2. The best time to start a budget is NOW

#### C. Discuss the homework

## VI. Biblical Principle – Money in and of itself is morally neutral

- A. How many have heard this...The bible says that “Money is the root of all evil”?

<sup>1 Timothy 6:10</sup> *“For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”*

- B. Money is just a material thing...seashells, beads, gold, silver, copper, linen...things that have been assigned a specific value by man. But that still belongs to God:

<sup>Haggai 2:8</sup> *“‘The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,’ declares the LORD of hosts.”*

- C. This leads us to our second biblical principle... Money in and of itself is morally neutral

1. Money is not the problem...our flesh and sinful hearts are the problem
2. What we do with money and how we view and use it make it good or evil

- D. God gives money/possessions/wealth as he sees fit

1. He may give a lot or a little

<sup>1 Timothy 6:8</sup> *“For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.”*

<sup>Proverbs 10:22</sup> *“It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, And He adds no sorrow to it.”*

<sup>Proverbs 30:8b</sup> *“Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion,”*

2. But whatever money and possessions He has given He has given negative (don'ts) and positive (dos) commands regarding how we are to view and use those monies and possessions
3. In the weeks to come we will spend a lot of time looking at the commendable ways that God wants us to use money
4. This week however we are going to look primarily at the things about money that are condemned.
5. The goal here is for us to see that it's not the money that is the problem but it is what we do with it that can be the problem.

- E. Six Condemned uses of money and possessions

1. Putting our faith and hope in money is condemned

<sup>1 Timothy 6:17</sup> *“Instruct those who are rich in this present world **not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us***

*with all things to enjoy.” (emphasis mine)*

Proverbs 18:10-11 *“The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous runs into it and is safe. A rich man’s wealth is his strong city, And like a high wall **in his own imagination.**” (emphasis mine)*

- a. The wealthy are not condemned for being rich...they are warned not to put their trust or hope in money
  - b. Those with less should not take the stand that if I only had X more then I would be secure
  - c. Ultimately this is idolatry
  - d. We look to money rather than God to provide comfort, security, peace, etc.
  - e. We worship the stuff, we look to it for our comfort, security, peace...instead of the Provider of all things
2. Getting finances without regard for God is condemned

James 4:13-16 *“Come now, you who say, “ Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, “ If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.” But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.”*

- a. This is Pride
  - b. We think we are the ones, who through our own strength, cause the good outcome but often blame God if there is an outcome other than what we had planned
  - c. We don’t know what tomorrow will bring.
3. Hoarding is condemned

Luke 12:15-21 *“Then He said to them, “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.” And He told them a parable, saying, ‘The land of a rich man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my*

*goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry." But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.'*" (emphasis mine)

- a. This is greed
  - b. We will see in the weeks to come that we are to be generous and give
  - c. We will also see that as we investment in God's work He may increase or decrease the amount of our wealth based on the situation
4. Self indulgence is condemned
- a. <sup>James 4:1-3</sup> *"What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because **you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.**"* (emphasis mine)
  - b. This is lust
  - c. Using what we have been given to satisfy our own fleshly desires as opposed to God's purposes
5. Un-charitableness is condemned
- a. Not caring for God priorities  
<sup>Malachi 2:8, 10</sup> *"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings...Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows."*
  - b. Not caring for your family  
<sup>1 Timothy 5:8</sup> *"But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."*  
<sup>Mark 7:11</sup> *"but you say, 'If a man says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given to God),' you no longer*

*permit him to do anything for his father or his mother; thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down;*" (emphasis mine)

- c. Not caring for people...both within and outside of the church

<sup>1 John 3:17</sup> *"But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?"*

- d. In each of these instances I am of the opinion that the root of not doing these things if based in our own selfishness and unwillingness to rely on God

6. Finally the love of money is condemned

<sup>1 Timothy 6:10</sup> *"For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."*

<sup>1 John 2:15</sup> *"Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."*

- a. MacArthur in "Whose Money Is It, Anyway" <sup>[2]</sup> gives 4 Red flags that might indicate we love money:

- i. You are bent on making money any way possible...even to the point of sin
- ii. You never seem to have enough...discontent instead of contentment
- iii. You flaunt it...possibly to the point of debt
- iv. You HATE to give it away

- b. This list looks a lot like the way people manifest their love of money, by doing the condemned practices we just covered

- c. The love of money is the root of all sorts of evil which manifests itself in all sorts of ways

F. To sum it all up

<sup>2 Timothy 3:2-5</sup> *"For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these."*

- 1. It is amazing to me how much of this list has to do with or can apply to money

2. All of these condemnations point to the fact that money in and of itself is not the problem...it is our own flesh
  3. We are to be different those called out in the verse because of what God has done for us and through the work of His Spirit in our lives
- G. In the coming weeks we will see that there are a lot of positive commands in regard to what we are to do with our money in order to satisfy the wide range of God's priorities

## **VII. Budgeting Principle – Know Where You Are**

- A. In order to use a map to plot a course you need to know 2 things...Where you are and Where you want to be
- B. Within our financial lives in order to plot the most efficient course we need to know where we are and where we want to be
- C. The “Where you are going” I will refer to as your Financial Plan
1. It is the bigger long term picture that includes your goals and desires
  2. We will work on goals as homework this next week
- D. The “How we get there” is The Budget
1. It is the tool that you use to help you allocate your money
  2. That allocation will be based on your long term goals and desires (The Financial Plan) and where you are right now
- E. The “Where you are” is simply your current financial state of affairs
1. The Net Worth and Net Income sheets are a tool to help you understand where you are in your current financial situation
  2. They are the objective data that can show you what your current financial state really is...No wishful thinking
- F. All financial planners I believe would agree that the first two goals in a Financial Plan are to:
1. Have a net worth greater than zero: If all your assets were liquidated you could cover all of your obligations
  2. Have a have a positive cash flow: Spend less than you earn
- G. Net Worth analysis
1. Your net worth is simply a snap shot of where you are in time.
  2. It gives you a summary of your financial decisions up to this point in your life

3. At a high level it will show you whether you are a borrower or a saver
4. If your liabilities are a large percentage of your assets (liabilities/assets) you are most likely inclined to borrow to get what you have
5. If they are a small percentage then you are most likely one who saves to get what you have
6. By dividing your net worth by the number of years you have worked you can get an idea of what you have been able to put away each year.

H. Net Cash flow analysis

1. Want you to see that in most cases a relatively small percentage of your income is mandated by amount legally or to satisfy righteousness
2. That means the rest are choices that we can make as we seek God's will in how we will manage his resources
3. I think this just makes it all the more clear that every financial decision then does really become a spiritual decision

I. Using this information as the starting point will give you insight into

1. What you will need to attack first as you develop your budget
2. What habits you might want to evaluate/change to more quickly reach your goals
3. What you might want to divest yourself of to more quickly reach your goals
4. What reasonable goals might be for saving to achieve your long term goals

**VIII. The Homework**

A. Memory Verse

Hebrews 13:5 *“Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, ‘I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU.’”*

B. Goals Forms

1. Brainstorm some short and long term financial goals
2. Figure the amount and the time frame
3. Calculate the monthly amount required to accomplish (\$/time in months)

C. Remember you may download the forms from the VBC website

[http://www.valleybible.net/AdultEducation/ClassNotes/FinancialManagement\\_2017/financial\\_management2017.php](http://www.valleybible.net/AdultEducation/ClassNotes/FinancialManagement_2017/financial_management2017.php)

- D. Continue to write down everything you spend but start to think about how you would group your spending items into broader spending categories such as housing, transportation, recreation/entertainment, clothing, food, toiletries, etc

### References

1. Unless otherwise indicated all scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible (NASB), 1995
2. **John MacArthur**, *Whose Money Is It Anyway?: A Biblical Guide to Using God's Wealth* (Nashville, TN: Word, 2000)
3. **Ron Blue**, *Master Your Money: A Step Buy Step Plan for Financial Freedom* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1991)