

Week 3

IX. Review

- A. Homework
- B. Budgeting Principles
 - 1. A Budget is simply a spending plan for your household
 - 2. Know where you are financially
 - 3. Remember that this area of our lives takes discipline just like any other area of our spiritual life
- C. Biblical Principles
 - 1. We are Stewards because God owns everything we own nothing – Psalm 24:1
 - 2. Money in and of itself is morally neutral – Hebrews 13:5
 - a. Remember that it is what we do with money that makes it Good or Evil
 - b. Last week we saw several ways we are not to use money
 - i. We are not to put our faith in money – 1 Timothy 6:17
 - ii. We are not to get finances without regard for God – James 4:13-16; Proverbs 27:1
 - iii. We are not to hoard – Luke 12:15-21
 - iv. We are not to indulge the flesh – James 4:3
 - v. We are not to be uncharitable toward God, our brothers, or our families (Malachi 2:8; 1 John 3:17; 1 Timothy 5:8)
 - vi. We are not to love money – 1 Timothy 6:10
 - 3. Building on what we learned last week, that Money is morally neutral, leads us to our next biblical principle

X. Biblical Principle – How we handle money and possessions is an indicator of our heart toward God

- A. How we handle money and possessions is an excellent indicator of our heart in regard to spiritual things

Matthew 6:19-21, 24 “*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. . . No one can serve two*”

masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth”

B. Treasure

1. The Greek word is Thesaurus (θησαυρος)...
2. It simply means treasure and implies something of worth or value
3. It is most commonly used of material riches, “treasures on earth”
4. But it is also used of spiritual (non-material) riches, “treasures in heaven”

C. How we use our material possessions to build treasure is an excellent indicator of our spiritual state...

1. Using money to accomplish God’s purposes indicates that we have a heart for Him...

¹Timothy 6:17-19 *“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. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”*

2. Continually using money in the way God condemns (to satisfy our desires or provide our security), at its best demonstrates a weak heart, one tied to the world

¹ John 2:15-16 *“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. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”*

3. At it’s worst it demonstrates a complete lack of salvation

^{Mark 10:21-22} *“Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, ‘One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.’ But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.”*

^{James 5:3} *“Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!”*

4. As Jesus stated in Matthew 6:24, if we have God as our Master we cannot also serve and love money
- D. This week we are going to look at how God uses money in our lives to grow us and build treasure in heaven
1. As A Test
 - a. Remember that God does test us in order to refine our faith
James 1:2-3 “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.”
 - b. He uses hard things in our lives to break us down, cause us to rely on Him and bring us into submission to His will
 - c. Money may be one of the things he uses to test us and to demonstrate both to ourselves and others that we really do belong to God
 - d. One specific example of using money as a test, in this case in a positive way, is found within the qualifications for Elder and Deacon
 - i. A couple of qualifications for Elders are that they according to I Timothy 3:3 *“must be...free from the love of money”* and according to Titus 1:7 *“must be...not fond of sordid gain”*
 - ii. One qualification for Deacon according to I Timothy 3:8 is that they *“must be...not...fond of sordid gain”*.
 - iii. I Timothy 3:10 states *“And let these (in this verse deacons) also first be tested...”*.
 2. As A Tool
 - a. It is something God gives us to help accomplish his work
2 Corinthians 9:5-6 “So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness. Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”
 - b. Remember our definition of financial success?...Using God’s resources to accomplish His purposes
 - c. God uses money as one means to accomplish His purposes on earth

- d. We should be constantly on the lookout for opportunities to use our money and possessions to directly accomplish God's purposes here on earth.
3. As A Testimony
- a. If we use our money in the way that God directs, it is a great testimonial to the rest of the world.
 - b. Our use of money should be an outward demonstration that we have a heart for God rather than just living for ourselves
 - c. The Bible gives many examples of how our use of money shows God in us:
 - d. By Investing in the Kingdom in 2 Corinthians 9:6. Also...
Philippians 4:17 "Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account."
 - e. By being Generous (Giving)
2 Corinthians 8:1-4 "Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,"
 - i. Give like this and we will be different
 - f. By Not Loving Money – remember the qualifications for Elder and Deacon
Titus 1:7 "For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, ... not fond of sordid gain,"
1 Timothy 3:8 "Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not ... fond of sordid gain,"
 - i. These are things that are seen and demonstrated in a person's life
 - ii. Our attitude toward money helps demonstrate maturity
 - g. By Caring for your family
1 Timothy 5:4, 8 "but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God. ... 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.”

- i. Another great way to show your heart for God is to honor your parents by caring for them physically and perhaps financially when they become less able
- ii. Don't leave it to someone else to care for your family
- h. By paying your taxes
 - Luke 20:22-24 *“‘Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?’ But He detected their trickery and said to them, ‘Show Me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?’ They said, ‘Caesar’s.’ And He said to them, ‘Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’”*
 - Romans 13:6-7 *“For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.”*
 - i. You want to be different? Don't complain...just pay your taxes
- i. By repaying your debts
 - Psalms 37:21 *“The wicked borrows and does not pay back, But the righteous is gracious and gives.”*
- j. By being content
 - 1 Timothy 6:6-7 *“But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.”*
 - i. Also Hebrews 13:5
 - ii. By understanding that everything comes from God and that we have exactly what He wants us to have at any given moment and it is enough.
- 4. To summarize:
 - a. We can use our money to build things of value on earth or of value in heaven.
 - b. A person not working in God's strength and by His Spirit will not be able to sustain these positive indicators in the long run

- c. How we handle money will either show we love the world and are storing up treasure here or it will show we belong to God and that we are socking away treasure in heaven
 - i. Those who pour themselves into the condemned uses of money are building treasure on earth...ultimately treasures in hell.
 - ii. We can't take our material riches with us but we can bank riches in heaven by how we use money and possessions here in time
- d. How we handle money is an excellent indicator of where our heart is

XI. Budgeting Principle – Know where you are going!

- A. Remember last week we talked about the 2 things you need to know in order to plot a course on a map...Where you are and Where you want to be.
- B. I believe the goal of “knowing where you are going” will help us to do the following:
 - 1. Be financially successful
Using God's resources to accomplish His purposes
 - 2. Store up treasure in heaven
 - 3. Satisfy God's direct commands, His High priorities, regarding how we use the money and possessions He has given us
 - 4. Live wisely by planning to meet God's Medium and Low priorities for our money
- C. We need to know where we want to be so that we can apply our monies today in order to reach the goals that we have set for ourselves
 - 1. As you set up your spending plan (budget) you will quickly realize that are no independent financial decisions...what you do with your money today WILL affect the dollars that you have...or don't have...in the future
 - 2. You will also see that there are only 3 things that you can do with money as you work to meet the goals that you have set for yourselves
 - a. Spend It
 - b. Save It
 - c. Give It Away
- D. Some general principles to use to meet your goals
 - 1. Submit yourself to God (Romans 12:1-2; James 4:7)
 - 2. Prayerfully consider what God has for you regarding your finances and ask for:

- a. Wisdom
James 1:5 *“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”*
 - b. Discipline
1 Timothy 4:7b-8 *“On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”*
 - c. Contentment
1 Timothy 6:8 *“If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.”*
3. Beyond this there are 5 steps that I believe most financial planners will agree you should take to accomplish your goals
- a. Spend less than you earn
 - b. Get rid of all consumer debt, buy down your secured debt
 - c. Protect against catastrophe (Insure)
 - d. Save (Plan for the (Un)Expected)
 - e. Invest (Grow what you have)
- E. Over the next weeks we will spend a lot of time discussing some specifics of what God expects of us in regard to money and finances as we seek to live out godliness
- F. My hope is that you will continue to evaluate your goals and adjust them accordingly as you gain understanding and that He works on your hearts as you strive to submit this area to God

XII. The Homework

A. Memory Verses

1. Matthew 6:21 *“for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*
2. 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,’”*
3. Psalm 24:1 *“The earth is the LORD’S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.”*

- B. Remember you may download the forms from the VBC website
http://www.valleybible.net/AdultEducation/ClassNotes/FinancialManagement_2017/financial_management2017.php
- C. Spend a bit more time thinking about and refining your financial goals based on today's biblical and financial principles.
- 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
- E. Use the Anticipated Monthly Expenses worksheet to generate a list of your expected living expenses

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)
4. **Larry Burkett**, *Your Finances in Changing Times* (Chicago, IL: Moody, 1993)
5. **Ibid**, *Using Your Money Wisely: Biblical Principles Under Scrutiny* (Chicago, IL: Moody, 1990)