

Week 7

XXV. Review

A. Homework

B. Budget Principles

1. Budget...just the spending plan for your household
2. Know where you are starting from and where you are going
3. Adjust your spending to meet your income
4. Plan for the (Un)Expected
5. Pay Yourself not somebody else
 - a. Pay your taxes...but don't overpay
 - b. Debt is expensive
 - i. Don't take on consumer debt...instead plan and save
 - ii. Minimize the amount and duration of secured debt

C. Biblical Principles

1. We are Stewards because God owns it all...we own nothing – Psalm 24:1
2. Money in and of itself is morally neutral...it is what we do with it that makes it good or bad – Hebrews 13:5
3. Money is an excellent indicator of our heart...both good and bad – Mt 6:21
4. The believer is to be self-controlled – Titus 2:12
5. Saving and planning are wise and a MODERATE priority with God – Prvbs 21:20
6. Repaying our Debts and Paying our taxes is a HIGH priority with God
 - a. The wicked borrow and do not repay (Psalm 37:21)
 - b. We are to pay what is due and payable when it is due and payable
 - c. Government officials are God's servants. We are to support them with our taxes so they can accomplish His purposes (Romans 13:1-13)
7. Repaying our Debts more quickly than required is wise and a MODERATE priority with God
 - a. We don't want to presume on the future (Proverbs 27:1)
 - b. We don't want to be exposed to default (Ecclesiastes 5:5)
 - c. We don't want to be beholden to someone else (Proverbs 22:7)

XXVI. Biblical Principle – Work Is A Blessing

- A. God has given us direct commands regarding what we are to do with our money
 - 1. I believe He wants us to have material resources
 - 2. It may be a little or a lot...the amount is not important
 - 3. The Bible gives some guidance as to how we are and are not to obtain these resources
 - 4. In week two we looked at the condemned ways to pursue money, getting it through sinful means and without regard to God.
 - 5. Today we are going to look at the commendable ways that God provides to obtain money and possessions.
- B. The Bible mentions 4 ways to rightly obtain material resources
 - 1. Receive a Gift
 - a. We see this throughout scripture as a valid form of passing wealth
 - b. Jacob to Esau - Genesis 33:11
 - c. Nebuchadnezzar to Daniel - Daniel 2:6, 48
 - d. Wise Men to Jesus - Matthew 2:11
 - e. Believers to Paul - Philippians 4:16
 - f. It is a voluntary means of honoring another and supporting their work
 - g. It is not something that we ask to receive...it is fully at the choice and discretion of the giver
 - 2. Receive an Inheritance
 - a. An inheritance is a good thing to leave your family
Proverbs 13:22a “A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children...”
 - b. We see Jesus mention the practice in the parable of the Prodigal Son
 - i. Luke 15:16-32
 - ii. In this case the practice was not condemned but the inheritance was wasted
 - c. Biblically, passing on an inheritance was a means of providing for yourself into the future
 - i. That is why the eldest son got a double portion – Deut 21:16-17
 - ii. The expectation was that they would care for the family...including you

- d. This is another way you may receive money however the amount and timing is fully at the discretion of the giver (or God)
3. Receive a Return On Investment
 - a. This is accomplished by allowing surplus monies, those left over after meeting God's High priorities to work
 - b. Earning dividends or interest
 - c. Selling something at a profit (capital gain)
 - d. Through the management of another Parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-28)
 - e. This is a way to come by resources that is under your control and done at your discretion
4. Earn it through Labor/Vocation
 - a. When we look at what is normative in scripture for acquiring resources, it is labor, either paid or unpaid.
 - b. Work permeates the Bible both old and new testament
The bible is "an album of casual photographs of laborers...A book by workers, about workers, for workers – that is the bible" *Paul Minear "Work and Vocation in Scripture"*
 - c. There is profit in labor
Proverbs 14:23 "*In all labor there is profit, But mere talk leads only to poverty.*"
 - d. Labor is something that is incumbent upon us accomplish ourselves
- C. Why are we to work?
 1. I believe that labor is the primary means that God has given us to obtain the resources that we use to accomplish His purposes
 2. I believe we are to work rather than primarily obtaining money through of an inheritance, gift or return on investment
 3. First and foremost I believe we are to work because as those created in the image of God we are to be reflecting God's qualities in the world
 4. God sets us an example of work
 - a. God worked six days and rested the seventh
Exodus 20:9-11 "*Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day*

*is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. **For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.***”

- b. The 7th day was the opportunity to rest and not do physical work but be about the work of reflection on and worship of God because of what has done
- c. God continues to work

John 5:17 *“But He answered them, ‘My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.’”*

Philippians 2:13 *“for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”*

- 5. We are to work because God commanded Adam and Eve to work in the garden BEFORE the fall

- a. He was to subdue the earth

Genesis 1:28 *“God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

- b. He was to tend the garden

Gen2:15 *“Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it”*

- c. He was to name all of the animals

Gen2:19-20 *“Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field”*

- d. All this occurred before Adam sinned, while the Earth was perfect, so work is a good thing...It is of and from God

- 6. We are to work because through labor God gives us the ability to provide for our own and our families needs in order that we will not be a burden to others

- a. God expected Adam to work to provide his food after the fall
Genesis 3:17-19, 23
 - b. We are to provide for ourselves and not be a burden to others
2 Thessalonians 3:7-10 *“For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, **but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example.** For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: **if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.**”*
 - c. We are to provide for our extended family - 1 Tim 3:14
 - d. It is not just the domain of the male to care and provide for the family as in Proverbs 31:10-31 we find the excellent wife fully engaged in the care of the family and the household
 7. We are to work in order to have resources to serve and provide for others
1 Timothy 6:17-19
 8. We are to work so that we may have a testimony and bring glory to God
 - a. To adorn the gospel
Titus 2:9-10 *“Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing...showing all good faith **so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect**”*
 - b. So God will not be dishonored
1 Timothy 6:1 *“All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor **so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against.**”*
- D. How are we to work?
Ephesians 6:5-9; Col 3:22-4:1; 1 Timothy 6:1-2; Titus 2:9-10; 1 Pet 2:18-20
1. Understand that there is a God ordained authority structure in the work place
 2. God is sovereign in establishing where you fall within that authority structure
 3. In the passages above there were masters and slaves

4. We are not masters or slaves in the sense written here but these principles still hold for us as employees in the work place
 5. We are to obey...except when we are commanded to sin – Colossians 3:22 / Acts 5:29
 6. We are to respect and fear our “masters” – Ephesians 6:5
 7. We are not to talk back or argue – Titus 2:9
 8. We are not to steal – Titus 2:10
 9. We are to serve wholeheartedly – Colossians 3:23-24
 - a. Not to please men
 - b. But as if working for the Lord
 10. We are to work to the benefit our employer – 1 Timothy 6:2
 11. We are to do this even to unjust or harsh “masters” – 1 Peter 2:18
 12. As the “master”
 - a. You are to remember that you too are slaves of Christ and to be doing the will of the Father – Ephesians 6:9
 - b. Don’t threaten – Ephesians 6:7
 - c. Provide what is just and fair – Colossians 4:1
- E. How should we view work?
1. Having a proper view of work is foundational to us executing it in a God honoring way
 2. Work is a gift from God

Ecclesiastes 3:13 *“moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his labor—it is the gift of God.”*

Ecclesiastes 5:19 *“Furthermore, as for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, He has also empowered him to eat from them and to receive his reward and rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God.”*
 3. Work is something that was established prior to the fall and so we should view it as a good use of our time and talents, as something we should embrace rather than avoid
 4. We should view how we accomplish our work as another way that we show God and reflect His character to the world

5. It is one more opportunity that we have to serve God, to accomplish His will and bring Him Glory
6. We should be thankful for whatever work we have because it is how God has chosen to provide us with money to accomplish His purposes
7. Work is a Blessing

XXVII. Budgeting Principle – Increase Your Spendable Income

- A. We want to maximize the amount of net spendable income that we have available each month
- B. Some ways to increase your net spendable income (each of these require discipline):
 1. Work Harder
 2. Work Smarter
 3. Spend Less
- C. Working Harder
 1. This approach provides more net spendable income by increasing your gross income
 2. Work more at your present position - overtime or additional duties
 3. Take on a second job
 4. Both Spouses work at a paid vocation...
 - a. I do not necessarily recommend this it is however an area of wisdom to be worked out within your family structure
 - b. The warning here is that there will not be an increase of 100% of the income because of other outflow required to maintain the 2nd job
- D. Working Smarter
 1. Remember to Pay Yourself...last week's principle
 2. This can increase your net spendable income by minimizing outflow to taxes and debt obligations
 3. Sell assets and minimize the amount of items that require maintenance and upkeep
 4. Work to increase the return on your investment
 5. If your employer offers it invest in any retirement or charitable matching programs
 6. Depending on your retirement plan you could retire and take then on another job
- E. Spending Less

1. This is pretty self explanatory
2. Reprioritize your monthly expenditures to increase the availability of funds to work on God's high and medium priorities (Giving/Investing, Family Care, Debt Repayment/Reduction and Savings)

XXVIII. Homework

A. Memory Verses

1. Colossians 3:23 “*Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men*”
2. Psalm 37:21 “*The wicked borrows and does not pay back, But the righteous is gracious and gives.*”
3. Proverbs 21:20 “*There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, But a foolish man swallows it up.*”
4. Titus 2:12 “*...instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,*”
5. Matthew 6:21 “*for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*”
6. 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,’*”
7. Psalm 24:1 “*The earth is the LORD’S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.*”

References

1. Unless otherwise indicated all scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible (NASB), 1995
2. **Larry Burkett**, *Using Your Money Wisely: Biblical Principles Under Scrutiny* (Chicago, IL: Moody, 1990)
3. **John Temple**, *Family Money Matters: How to run your family finances to God’s Glory* (Leominster, UK: Day One, 2010)
4. **John Temple**, *Be Successful; Be Spiritual: How to serve God in the workplace* (Leominster, UK: Day One, 2008)
5. **Tom Nelson**, *Work Matters: Connecting Sunday Worship to Monday Work* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011)