

The background features a blurred image of a person in a white lab coat, possibly a doctor or scientist, with a faint grid pattern overlaid. A diagonal line runs from the bottom left towards the top right, separating the main title area from a light green footer.

Husbanding Wealth: A Right View of Possessions

Hudson Taylor

- “God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supply.”

Thomas Watson

- “Earthly things are the good gifts of God, which no man can simply condemn, without injury to God’s disposing hand and providence, who hath ordained them for natural life.”

Richard Baxter

- “Riches are consistent with godliness, and the more a man hath, the more advantages he hath to do good with it, if God give him an heart to it.”

Asceticism Is Wrong

■ Poverty Is Not Piety

- Poverty has its temptations. The poor can be undone by an inordinate desire for this world's goods as quickly or more quickly than the rich.
- There are many who never prosper in this world, yet die over-loving the world.

Asceticism Is Wrong

- **Spirituality Is A Matter Of The Heart, Not Of Material Circumstances**
 - An alcoholic does not need booze to be an alcoholic, and a materialist does not need possessions to be a materialist.
 - A man with a little may pray little, and a man with many goods may be very earnest in prayer.

Asceticism Is Wrong

- Asceticism May Be An Attempt To Please God By Our Own Works
 - It is one thing to desire to please God; it is another to think that we can approach God in some manner other than that of his own choosing.
 - Ultimately self-inflicted punishments are proud and self-righteous.

Asceticism Is Wrong

- **Asceticism Often Leads To Unfair Condemnation Of The Wealthy**
 - One may see others as “unspiritual” if they own a house, have a large income, a new car, nicer clothes, etc.

Asceticism Is Wrong

- **Modern Conveniences Can Free Us For Pursuits Related To The Kingdom**
 - **If Jesus traveled in a boat across the sea of Galilee, why not in an airplane across the US?.**
 - **Jesus undoubtedly had the best tools he could afford in order to be the best carpenter he could be.**

Asceticism Is Wrong

- **It Would Be Disastrous If Every Believer Decided To Become Ascetic**
 - It is necessary in God's plan for some to finance the kingdom of God, else neither the OT nor the NT would speak as much as they do about the grace of giving.

Materialism Is Wrong

- **Americans Have Quit Pursuing Dreams In Order To Pursue Impulse Purchases**
 - Edward Beam, a financial planner: “I love kids, but I don’t want any. I’m too selfish to give what’s necessary to raise them properly. Eventually, I’d resent their taking me away from my interests, just as I’d be upset that I wasn’t devoting enough attention to them.”

Materialism Is Wrong

■ The American Dream?

- Some already regard owning a home (even if it takes two incomes to cover the mortgage) as more desirable than having children.
- Organized religion, favored in the 1950s as a social and family adhesive, appears to be proscriptive or irrelevant to 1980's "twenty somethings." The majority in that age group call themselves agnostic or "privately spiritual."

Materialism Is Wrong

■ What Is Materialism?

■ Webster's *Collegiate Dictionary*:

- “a doctrine that the only or the highest values or objectives lie in material well-being and in the furtherance of material progress”

- In more biblical terms, materialism “is a preoccupation with the material world that either ignores or discounts the kingdom of God.”

Materialism Is Wrong

- **Materialism Is Also Stupid (Foolish)**
 - (Matth. 16:26) The rich fool was not a smart businessman, but a fool who made plans **without taking God or His kingdom into account** in his plans. He failed to come to grips with three inescapable facts:
 - **The mortality of the present life**
 - **The eternity of the life to come**
 - **The life to come is being forged by the present life**

Materialism Is Wrong

- “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” **Ps 90:12**
- “Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish.”
Ps 49:12
- “Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them.” **Ps 39:6**

Materialism Is Wrong

- It is not the having of things that is wrong, but putting them above the kingdom.
- When John D. Rockefeller died, someone asked his accountant how much money he left behind. His answer was classic: “all of it.”
- There is a good reason they don't put a luggage rack on a hearse: you can't take it with you.

A Right View of Possessions

- “Now, behold, in my trouble I have prepared for the house of the LORD an *hundred thousand talents of gold*, and a *thousand thousand talents of silver*, and of brass and iron *without weight*, for it is in abundance: timber also and stone have I prepared; and thou mayest add thereto.”
1 Ch 22:14

A Right View of Possessions

- An Hundred Thousand Talents of God:
 - Roughly 90 lbs. to the talent
 - 12 troy oz. to the lb.
 - Friday's close (2/23/07) on gold: \$677 per troy oz.
 - 100,000 talents of gold = >\$73 Billion

A Right View of Possessions

- One thousand thousands talents of silver
 - One thousand thousands = one million
 - Roughly 90 lbs. to the talent
 - 12 troy oz. to the lb.
 - Friday's close (2/23/07) on silver = \$14.50 per troy oz.
 - 1 million talents of silver = >\$15 Billion

A Right View of Possessions

- \$73 Billion in Gold
- \$15 Billion in Silver
- By today's standards, David gave nearly \$89 Billion to the building of Solomon's temple.
- Plus he gave base metals "without weight," meaning virtually uncountable.

A Right View of Possessions

- In 1 Samuel 17, Saul offered rewards to whomever defeated Goliath. David said he would defeat Goliath in the name of the Lord, and so he did (vv. 25 – 30; 18:5).
- As a young man, David had trophies of his great triumphs, some of which were kept at the tabernacle (1 Sam. 21:9).
- David had a dream and a plan.

A Right View of Possessions

- Now, behold, in my [David's] trouble I have prepared for the house of the LORD an hundred thousand talents of gold, and a thousand thousand talents of silver; and of brass and iron without weight; for it is in abundance: timber also and stone have I prepared; and thou mayest add thereto.1 **Ch 22:14**
- And he [David] died in a good old age, **full of days, riches, and honour**: and Solomon his son reigned in his stead.1 **Ch 29:28**

A Right View of Possessions

- Somehow a shepherd boy managed to turn a dream and a plan into the ability to give over \$89,000,000,000.00 to the kingdom of God (5,000 tons of gold and 50,000 tons of silver).
- David may have been the wealthiest man of all time (possibly his son Solomon excepted). The Buffets, Gates, Rockefellers all pale in comparison to this shepherd. Most of their wealth consists of little more than notations on a computer disk somewhere.

David's "Secret"

- The 'secret' of David's success is often overlooked by modern entrepreneurs.
Principle #1: Every part of David's life was devoted to the Lord.
- David sinned at times – and sometimes he sinned greatly – but he was supremely devoted to the kingdom of God.
- Matthew 6:33 was the guiding principle!

David's "Secret"

- But if we back up to the first few verses of 1 Chron. 29 we will find that David had his own "stash" of silver and gold.
- He prepared "with all his might."
- 1 Chron. 29:4 indicates that in addition to the public treasury that David had accumulated, he also gave significantly from his own savings.

David's "Secret"

- From his personal "savings account," David produced 3,000 talents of gold and another 7,000 talents of silver.
- \$2 Billion, 193.5 Million in gold
- \$109 Million in silver
- This generosity was a "spur" to the elders of the nation, such that they gave as well

David's "Secret"

- “Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king’s work, offered willingly, And gave for the service of the house of God of **gold five thousand talents** and ten thousand drams, and of **silver ten thousand talents**, and of brass eighteen thousand talents, and one hundred thousand talents of iron” (vv. 6-7).
- That is another 225 tons of gold and 450 tons of silver.

David's "Secret"

- This should change our entire perspective on "treasures."
- Jesus said, (Matthew 19:29 cf. Mark 10:29-30), Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. **Mk 10:29-30**

David's "Secret"

- An "hundredfold" is not 100%, but 100 TIMES. Thus it is 10,000 percent return on investment.
- David's Principle and Christ's principle are the same principle: "God owns everything, and has made you his money manager."

Managing God's Money

- “If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence; If I rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much; If I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in brightness; And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand: This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above.” **Job 31:24-28**
(emphasis added)

Managing God's Money

- “Who hath prevented [prevent = to anticipate or lead] me, that I should repay him? whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine.” **Job 41:11**
- “The earth is the LORD’S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.” **Ps 24:1**
- “If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.” **Ps 50:12**

Managing God's Money

- This is revolutionary thinking: You are not God; money (mammon) is not God; God is God, and you are (one of) his money manager(s). Thus God is in his place, and you are in your place, and money is in its place.

Managing God's Money

- **Principle #2:** Not only does God own all the money, in the final analysis God also controls all the money.
- The implications of this principle are **also** revolutionary. You don't have to own everything and you don't have to control everything in order to prosper. All the wealth of the world is in better hands than yours.

Managing God's Money

- When we come to Christ, God puts all his resources at our disposal and expects us to put all “our” resources at his disposal as well.
- This is the stewardship life, or what we may say is the true calling of God's money managers.
- We're most like God when we're giving out of love.

The Life of a Steward

- He affirms that Jesus has the right to dispose of all things, including wealth, as He sees fit.
- He obeys what God asks and gives.
- His love for Christ is unrivaled by any other person on this earth.
- He lives a life of unreserved surrender.

The Life of a Steward

- He affirms that everything he has comes from the Lord and belongs to Him.
- He understands that anything not given to God is mammon for him.
- He realizes that some refuse to surrender to the kingdom of God to their peril.

The Life of a Steward

- You cannot hold on to possessions any longer than you can hold your breath.
- Christ's plan is for us to open our hands, hold our treasures heavenward, and say words to the effect of "You are the giver of all I have; You are the owner of all I have; I am Your servant and steward. Anytime you want any of this, just let me know."

The Life of a Steward

- Satan does everything in his power to convince us that wealth belongs either to him or to us:
 - By encouraging us to overspend
 - By teasing us to outdo others in our possessions
 - By telling us to wait and offer up our possessions to God “when we have more”
 - By “teaching” us that our possessions can keep us safe in the future or we need them for that
 - By convincing us that we can only prosper if we disobey God