

GOD'S WISDOM & WARNINGS REGARDING WHO YOU SHOULD FINANCIALLY SUPPORT

A. God Wants You to Wisely Use the Money and/or Financial Resources He provides You ...

1. **ULTIMATELY**, to _____ by being a wise and faithful _____ of everything He has given you. (Prov. 3:9; 1 Chronicles 29:11-14; Deut. 8:17-18; 1 Cor. 4:2)

This involves repeatedly _____ upon your position and freedom in Christ and then _____ **to the Lord** as a willing _____ to do His will, as His son/servant, according to His Word, enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit, and in keeping with the grace of God, including in the area of _____. (Romans 6-8, 12:1-8)

Remember the basic principle of giving which we established early in this series? The underlying pattern of giving has been basically the **SAME** throughout history involving _____ **GIVING** (a form of taxation for believers and unbelievers alike) and _____ **GIVING** (voluntary giving for believers only).

2. SPECIFICALLY...

a. To pay your _____.

- 1) **Mark 12:13-17** - What do we learn from this? What if you disagree with the tax?
- 2) **Romans 13:6-7** - What if the government is corrupt?

b. To meet your _____.

1) Deuteronomy 5:16; Ephesians 6:1-2

- What is a trans-dispensational or permanent principle?
- What does "honoring your parents" involve?
- How were the Pharisees of Jesus' day seeking to bypass this imperative? (Matt. 15:1-5)
- How did our Lord address this violation of the WOG? (Matt. 15:6-9)

2) Proverbs 22:26-27 - What does this "proverb" teach us as a general axiom?

3) 1 Timothy 5:3-8 - Who should be the first source of financial provision regarding family members in need, especially widows?

4) 1 Timothy 5:9-10 - Should the local church ever assist in these financial matters?

5) 1 Timothy 5:11-16 - Does the financial need of a believer mean that the local church must meet this need?

c. To meet _____.

1) Ephesians 4:28

- What is the perspective under-girding all these imperatives in Ephesians 4?
- What is the wrong way to acquire financial resources?
- What is the normal means to acquire financial resources?
- How and for who are these financial resources to be wisely used?

2) Proverbs 14:21 - How does God want you to respond to the physical / financial needy?

3) Proverbs 19:17 - If you are gracious to the poor, who are you lending to & how will He respond?

4) James 1:27

- What does “religion” mean in this verse?
- What does it mean to “visit” the needy?
- Why are orphans and widows especially highlighted?

5) 1 John 3:17-18 - What can we learn from this?

d. To willingly give to the _____ to support your own scripturally sound _____ ministries & _____ for the furtherance of the _____ and the Word of God. (2 Cor. 8:1-5; 9:6-8; 1 Cor. 16:1-2)

B. God Wants You to Exercise BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT When Supporting Individuals, Local Churches and Christian Ministries regarding ...

1. WHO you SHOULD financially support? {God’s wisdom}

a. Start with your own doctrinally sound local church _____ who spiritually feed and lead you.

• **1 Timothy 5:17-18**

- What are faithful elders to be concentrating on by way of priority?
- What are faithful pastors / elders deserving of from believers they minister to?
- What is the scriptural rationale for this?
- How would this have been different from their past for the Jewish believers in Christ at Ephesus?
- What can you learn from this?

• **1 Corinthians 9:1-18**

- What again is the scriptural rationale for the financial support of those who teach The WOG and spiritually minister to you? (9:1-11a)

Key Verses: Proverbs 3:9; 1 Timothy 5

Key Words: Finances, Money

- What are the minister's options regarding receiving offered financial support? (9:11b-12)
 - While Paul exercised his liberty in this issue of receiving support, what was the norm regarding giving and expected support? (9:13-14)
 - Why didn't Paul follow the norm of receiving financial support? (9:15-16) Yet, didn't Paul do this on some occasions?
 - Is there a place to be bi-vocational in ministry if the teacher is so inclined and/or the church / ministry can't fully support him?
 - What must the "minister" remember when it comes to the meeting of his/her financial needs & what must the local church or individual believers remember regarding support as well?
- **Galatians 6:6**
 - What are believers commanded to do to those who teach them the WOG? What does this assume?
 - Why might this imperative be needed for these Galatian believers?
 - How does this apply to you?
- b. Include also, if possible, doctrinally sound _____ that clearly preach the Gospel, evangelize the lost, establish believers, plant churches, etc.**
- **Philippians 4:10-20**
 - What had Paul learned regarding his needs? What was his secret? (4:10-13)
 - Paul also recognized that God oftentimes uses human means to accomplish spiritual ends. What does this include & how did Paul commend these giving believers who supported him, while not guilting others? (4:14)
 - What are you supporting when you support scripturally sound missionaries? (4:15)
 - What was the Philippian church doing by their giving? (4:16)
 - What would their grace-giving support of this missionary result in from the Lord? (4:17)
 - How did God meet Paul's needs and what did the Lord think of their grace-giving? (4:18)
 - Like we observed in 2 Cor. 9:8, what does God promise to those who wisely grace-give as unto the Lord to support the furtherance of the Gospel? (4:19)
 - When the Gospel goes forth from sound and supported missionaries through the grace-giving of individual believers or local churches, who needs to be commended and who needs to be acknowledged and ultimately honored? (4:20)
 - **3 John 5-8**
 - What was Gaius commended for? What can you learn from this? (1:5a)

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- Who were the “brethren” and “strangers” he ministered to? (1:5b)
- Was his gracious hospitality & ministry verified and what was it proof of? (1:6)
- Why is it important to support ministers / ministries like this? Is this principle followed today by local churches and Christian ministries? (1:7)
- Should we support sound Gospel preachers, etc. & what does this result in? (1:8)

2. WHO you should NOT support? {God’s warnings}

a. God does NOT want you to support those pastors, teachers, missionaries, etc. that DO NOT _____ or _____.

- **2 John 7-12**

- How should you respond to those who do not hold fast to the Gospel of Christ?
- If you disregard this warning and support them, what will be true of you?
- Is this separation based on doctrine and lack of support inconsistent with agape love?

- **Romans 16:17-18**

- How does God want faithful believers to respond to those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the scriptural doctrine they have learned?
- If you disregard God’s warning and still support them, what are you actually doing?
- What should local churches or individual Christians do when it comes to those they either support or are considering doing so?

- **2 Corinthians 2:17** - What must we be wary of and be different than? What is the way or error of Balaam? (2 Peter 2:15; Jude 1:11; Rev. 2:14)

- **Galatians 1:6-10** - What does God state of those ministries that preach “another gospel”? How should this affect your support of them?

- **1 Timothy 6:17-21** - What is God’s wisdom to the rich believer and His warning to all?

b. God does NOT want you to financially support those who are able to work but _____ to work. (2 Thess. 3:6-15)

- How were these individuals described? (3:6)
- What was Paul’s own example and his previous command to this local church? (3:7-10)
- What are Paul’s present instructions toward those walking “disorderly”? (3:11-12)
- What are Paul’s instructions to the rest of the believers in Thessalonica? (3:13-15)