

EBC – Adult Bible Study
“Spirit Empowered, Godly Living in an Ungodly World”
2019-2020

Intro: Money like anything to do with the physical body is a minefield of a subject. There are a lot of opinions out there and you can't tell me what to do with my money. Last weeks sermon on giving probably ran into a variety of mindsets. One was the tithing mindset where one must give at least a tithe. Another was the mindset of what if I can't afford a tithe due to poverty or poor planning. Knowing that this could be a minefield, why address the topic? The reason is that there's a direct correlation between the way we handle our money and our faith. When it comes to money, we will either worship wealth or worship with our wealth. Today we will consider some biblical principles dealing with money so that each one can make wise decisions in their stewardship.

I. Putting the Secular and the Spiritual together in the Area of Money – Part 1

A. Money is a big topic in the scriptures

1. There are more than 2000 verses about money
2. Jesus had a lot to say about money
 - a. 16 out of 38 of Jesus' parables deal with money and possessions
 - b. Nearly 25% of Jesus' words in the New Testament deal with **biblical stewardship**
 - c. 1 out of 10 verses in the Gospels deal with money
 - d. **choose God over money - Luke 16:13**
 - e. **be generous and ready to give - Matt. 6:2, 5, 16**
3. The apostles also had a lot to say about money
 - a. **avoid the love of money - 1 Tim. 6:6–10**
 - b. **put our trust in God, not riches - 1 Tim. 6:17–19**
 - c. **and look after the needs of our families and others - 1 Tim. 5:8; Heb. 13:16**

B. What is Money?

1. Money is a medium of exchange
 - a. It is an agreed upon item used to purchase, trade, or pay debt
 - b. It is a measure of value both of the work done to earn it and the goods bought with it
2. Money is amoral – it is neither good or evil
 - a. Money cannot act on its own
 - b. Money can only do what you tell it to do.
 - c. Money is not the root of all evil. But the love of money is the root of all evil (1 Tim. 6:10).

C. Principles needed to be good stewards

1. God owns everything

- a. Ps 24:1 The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.
 - b. Ps 50:10-12 For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine. "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.
 - c. Since God owns everything, the money that we have, earned, spend, etc. is a matter of stewardship
2. Money is about discipleship
- a. Money, like any number of other things, is a tool in the hands of God to teach us to live for and love Him
 - i. Php 4:11-12 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.
 - ii. 1Ti 6:6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.
 - iii. 1Ti 6:8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.
 - b. Money like trials show us what is in our hearts
 - i. Mt 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
 - ii. Lu 12:34 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
 - iii. Lu 16:11-12 "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? "And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?
3. We need to learn that we can't put our hope in money (which is a form of Worship)
- a. Many verses about money give warnings
 - i. Ps 62:10 Do not trust in oppression, Nor vainly hope in robbery; If riches increase, Do not set your heart on them.
 - ii. 1Ti 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;
 - b. Worship or hope in money brings destruction
 - i. 1Ti 6:9-10 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
 - ii. Pr 15:27 He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, But he who hates bribes will live.
4. We need to learn to be content
- a. We are in a daily spiritual battle for our hearts

- i. 2Co 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,
 - ii. 1Jo 2:15-16 Do not love the world or 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, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.
- b. Signs of discontentment
 - i. What happens when we get a pay increase?
 - ii. Debt
- c. What is contentment
 - i. Contentment is more than just being happy
 - ii. It is rooted in our understanding of God's love, sovereignty, and provision
 - iii. Contentment is satisfaction in my present circumstances knowing that whatever I have or am experiencing is what a loving God has determined is good for me at this time
- d. Scriptures about contentment
 - i. Ps 37:16-17 A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, But the LORD upholds the righteous.
 - ii. 2Co 12:9-10 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
 - iii. Php 4:11-13 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
 - iv. Phil 4:19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus
 - v. 1 Tim 6:6-8 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.