

# Financial Management

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*“Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.” Proverbs 30:7-9*

*“Give us today our daily bread. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” Matthew 6:11,13*

# living in two kingdoms - RULED BY ONE KINGDOM

You live in two kingdoms at once, the kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world. Simply stated, the two kingdoms are distinguished by their priorities.

The economy of the kingdom of God, of which you are a citizen, is based on giving and receiving. The motivating force behind your decisions is others-centered generosity. Success is determined by how much of your resources (money, as well as time and energy) you have invested in eternal things (God's priorities).

On the contrary, the economy of this world is based on buying and selling. Self-oriented spending or investing is the motivating force. Success is determined by the accumulation of particular types of possessions depending on who should be impressed. In some spheres, name-brand clothes or a new pickup truck give the impression of success. For others, it is accumulating houses of various sizes.

As a citizen of the kingdom of God, you must operate within this world's economic system of buying and selling and yet withstand the subtle lure and deceptions of its priorities. You live in the world, but you have different priorities from a different kingdom, just like Jesus did when He was on earth. Referring to you He said, *They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. John 17:16*



You live in the world; do not love it. Love God. Put your heart in the right place.

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***Do not love the world*** (the world's priorities) ***or anything in the world*** (the things or activities the world says are important).

***If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man*** (wanting your own way), ***the lust of his eyes*** (wanting what you see for yourself) ***and the boasting of what he has and does*** (wanting to appear successful by what you possess or have accomplished) – ***comes not from the Father but from the world.***

***The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God*** (lives by what God says is important – His priorities) ***lives forever*** (you are part of the permanent – the eternal). ***1 John 2:15-17***

According to this passage, what are the priorities of the world?

What choice is presented?

Here's the choice pragmatically restated by Jesus: *“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.” Matthew 6:24*

By whom do you want to be ruled?

# find out where your MONEY GOES

## While You Study the Financial Management Section

Make two copies of the Budget Sheet in this section.

Take the first two weeks after you receive your income and write down every penny you spend. Use your checkbook and/or a paper in your wallet.

At the end of each week, meet with someone with whom you will be accountable and put your expenditures in the appropriate categories on one copy of the Budget Sheet. This will show you where your money really goes. It will show you if your spending priorities need to be adjusted in order to improve your management of God's resources.

At the end of the two weeks, fill out the second copy of the Budget Sheet with a budget plan that reflects God's priorities for spending money. In figuring your monthly budget, factor in an aggressive and sacrificial plan to get out of debt as soon as possible, prioritizing credit card debt. Simply paying the minimum payment required on your monthly credit card bill generously supports the lending institution through the interest you pay.

**Budget Sheet** \_\_\_\_\_

**Income**

**Gross Income per Month**

Wages \_\_\_\_\_

Interest \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total - \_\_\_\_\_

**Tithe 10% on gross** - \_\_\_\_\_

**Taxes withheld** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Spendable Income** - \_\_\_\_\_ *Now, write this amount at end of Budget Sheet.*

**Monthly Expenses**

**Other Giving** \_\_\_\_\_ write here → \_\_\_\_\_

**Housing**

Rent/Mortgage \_\_\_\_\_

Utilities \_\_\_\_\_

Garbage \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Internet \_\_\_\_\_

Cable TV \_\_\_\_\_

Total - \_\_\_\_\_ write here → \_\_\_\_\_

**Budget Sheet** \_\_\_\_\_

**Income**

**Gross Income per Month**

Wages \_\_\_\_\_

Interest \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total - \_\_\_\_\_

**Tithe 10% on gross** - \_\_\_\_\_

**Taxes withheld** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Spendable Income** - \_\_\_\_\_ *Now, write this amount at end of Budget Sheet.*

**Monthly Expenses**

**Other Giving** \_\_\_\_\_ write here → \_\_\_\_\_

**Housing**

Rent/Mortgage \_\_\_\_\_

Utilities \_\_\_\_\_

Garbage \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Internet \_\_\_\_\_

Cable TV \_\_\_\_\_

Total - \_\_\_\_\_ write here → \_\_\_\_\_

# whose money IS IT?

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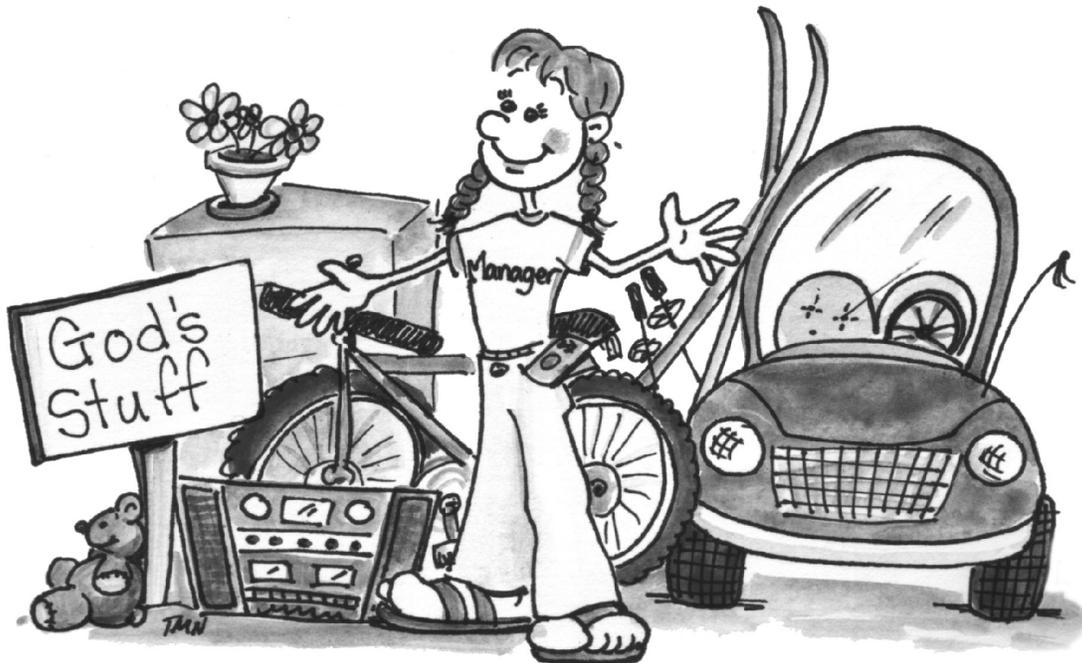
*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters. Psalm 24:1-2*

What does God own?

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." Genesis 1:26*

What is the job description of people?

The earth and everything in it is God's and people are to care for it. Your money, possessions, land, and everything else you have is, in reality, God's. He has made you a manager of His resources.



God's promises of financial blessing all hinge upon your choice to relinquish ownership to Him and recognize that you are a manager of these resources. If you refuse to do this, turmoil, worry, and selfishness regarding money will characterize your life; you will never fully experience God's plan of blessing.

Are you willing to turn over everything you have now and in the future to God and acknowledge that He is actually the owner?

Are you willing to consider yourself a manager of His resources and seek to use them with **His** best interests in mind?

Do you understand that, when Christ returns, you will give an account of how you used the resources God gave you?



**Make these questions into prayers.**

# managing God's RESOURCES WISELY

God owns everything in the world. He has put a certain amount of what is His under your management. You are to manage His resources wisely.

## Saving

*“Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.” Proverbs 6:6-8*

What are the ways of the ant that you are to consider?

What should you do to be wise like the ant?

Saving and hoarding are two different things. Hoarding is keeping and storing with selfish motives. Saving is being wise and planning for the future. The ant looks ahead. Consequently, it gathers its food when food is abundant (summer) and stores it for times when food is not abundant.

*In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has. Proverbs 21:20*

In this passage, what is a wise way to manage resources and what is a foolish way?

In light of this passage, are you being wise or foolish?

What is your debt-to-savings ratio?

## Be wise and plan ahead:

Do you want to buy a car someday? Make "car payments" to your own savings account. When you need a car, you'll have a substantial amount to pay toward it. Saving ahead for a car avoids or minimizes debt for this depreciating item. By making payments to yourself, **you** collect the interest instead of paying it to a bank.

Do you want to go on a missions trip someday? Save a little each month for that purpose. Then, the money is there and you are ready to go when God calls you, or you have resources to send someone else.

Do you want to buy Christmas presents? Make a "gift payment" to your savings account each month so you don't use a credit card in December. 12 months of saving \$30 each month gives you \$360 to spend.

Do you want new clothes? Make a "clothes payment" to your savings account each month. Then, pay cash when you need something new. You're ready when there's a good sale, too.

Savings				
	Car in 6 years	Christmas	Missions Tripto India	Clothes
Jan	100	30	100	20
Feb	100	30	100	20
Mar	100	30	100	20
Apr	100	30	100	20
May	"	"	"	"
Jun	"	"	"	"
Jul	"	"	"	"
Aug	"	"	"	"
Sept	"	"	"	"
Oct	"	"	"	"
Nov	"	"	"	"
Dec	"	"	"	"
Total				
1 Year	1200	360	1200	240

# Giving According to God's Priorities

## Giving is Investing in Eternal Stocks Storing Up Treasures in Heaven

➤ **Read Matthew 6:19-21.**

According to this passage, how will you be able to keep your heart motivated by heavenly priorities?

➤ **Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19** to find out how to store up treasures in heaven.

How does this passage teach you to invest your resources in eternity (your time, energy, money, possessions)?

According to verse 19, what is the result of laying up treasures in eternity?

Jesus spoke of life that is **not** truly life in Luke 12:15: *Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."*

When you give generously, you lay up treasure in heaven, you invest in eternity. You become successful by the standards of the kingdom of God, taking hold of *life that is truly life*.



## The Principle of Giving and Receiving

By giving, you activate the economy of the kingdom of God which is based on giving and receiving.

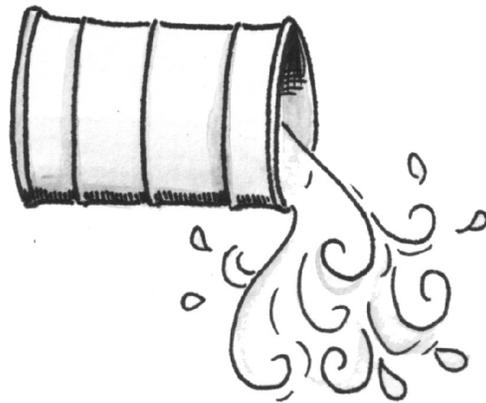
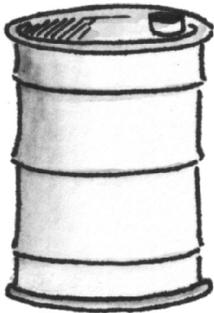
*"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

Luke 6:38

Thimble-Giving = Thimble>Returns



Barrel-Giving = Barrel>Returns



What "giving measure" would you need to use, generous or stingy, in order to receive what is described in this passage?

*One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. Proverbs 11:24-25*

What phrases in this passage reveal the principle of giving and receiving? (or **not** giving and **not** receiving)

## Giving Extends the Rule of God's Kingdom on Earth

By giving strategically to full-time Christian workers and to those who are relieving the suffering of the truly poor, you are enabling the gospel to be proclaimed and the compassion of Christ to be practically applied. That is what God's kingdom looks like: someone accepts Christ's rule in his life; suffering is relieved; people are loved and encouraged; God's priorities (His will) are being applied in a society. *"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'"*  
*Matthew 6:9-10*

Four types of giving which extend the rule of God's kingdom:

**giving your tithe**

**giving to missionaries**

**giving to the poor**

**giving through hospitality**

## Giving Your Tithe

### Giving to Those Who Care for (Feed) You Spiritually

#### What Is the Tithe?

In the Old Testament the tithe was a God-given commandment that reflected the reality that everything was from, and rightfully belonged to, the Lord. Each Israelite was to give the first tenth of their harvest and livestock each year back to the Lord. *A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. Leviticus 27:30*

The tithe was commanded by God, but the fulfillment of the command was a matter of the conscience – there were no “tithe collectors” working for the temple. The tithe was an act of obedient trust that celebrated the assurance that God would provide all their needs.

In giving the tithe, the Israelites acknowledged that the land belonged to the Lord and that they were simply stewards, managers, of God's resources. They were the tenants and He was the owner. To fail to tithe was, in essence, stealing from God, the owner.

◆► **Read Malachi 3:8-12.**

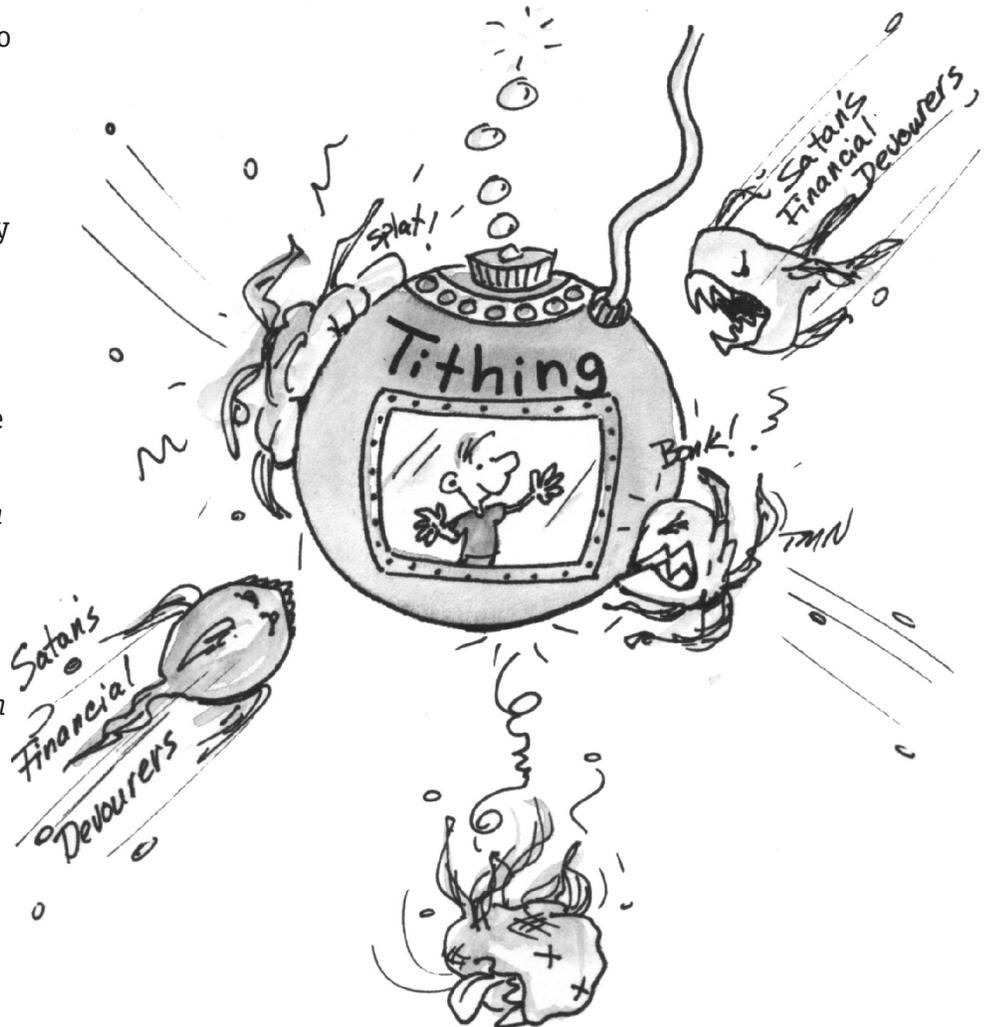
What is the result of **not** tithing and giving offerings?

What is the result of tithing and giving offerings? List everything mentioned in this passage.

In Malachi 3:11, from what are they protected?

This principle also applies to you. If you withhold what God asks, you will not be protected from forces and circumstances that eat away resources. But if you obey God by giving a tithe of your income and offerings besides, you will experience His blessing. *Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10*

Giving first to God with your tithe proclaims your trust in Him to supply all your needs.



## How the Tithe Is to Be Used

Over time, as Israel settled in the land, the tithe became the primary way the people supported the Levites who were the full-time priests. The Levites were not given land of their own. Therefore, they had no means of self-support. They were supported by the people's tithes so that they could use all of their time to minister to the Lord and His people.

Thus, the primary practical purpose of the tithe, besides the expression of gratitude and worship to God, was to care for the material needs of the ministering priests. *"I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the Tent of Meeting."* Numbers 18:21

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul instructs the believers to give according to the Old Testament pattern in order to sustain those in full-time Christian ministry.

### ➤ Read 1 Corinthians 9:7-11.

List all the analogies Paul uses.

What conclusion is drawn in verse 11?

## **tithes and offerings**

**Tithe is 10% of your income.**

**Offerings in the Old Testament were additional giving as worship, thanksgiving, part of holiday celebrations, or expressions of repentance. *Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. Psalm 96:8***

**For you, offerings would be giving to the poor, to relieve suffering, to missions, and to other needs God asks you to supply. Give offerings from an attitude of worship, thanksgiving, as part of a holiday celebration, or in gratefulness for God's forgiveness.**

•➔ **Read verses 13-14.**

How are the Old Testament commands regarding financial support of the Levites related to modern practice?

Who are the “Levites,” full-time ministers, who teach you and help you grow in your faith?

What is your obligation to them financially?

Are you fulfilling that obligation by tithing?

## Giving to Missionaries

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20*

From this passage, list the verbs that are used in Christ’s instructions to you.

You are to take these commands personally and do them in your own sphere of influence **and** in all nations. But you may not be one who should go to another nation full-time. Yet, you must obey Christ’s command to get the gospel to all nations.

How can you obey? **Read Luke 10:2 below to find one way.**

*He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Luke 10:2*

For what should you ask God?

If God answers your prayer and someone becomes willing to harvest people for God, what questions still need to be answered? **Read Romans 10:14-15 below to find the questions.**

*How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Romans 10:14-15*

How would you answer each question?

Would you be willing to contribute toward one missionary being sent to those who have not yet heard the message of Jesus?

When you invest your resources in people who are giving their lives to sharing the gospel and making disciples, you are working together with them, partnering with them. Through giving your resources, you will share in their eternal inheritance for the work they have done.

◆► **Find the theme of partnering in 3 John 1:5-8.**

How would you send a full-time Christian worker *on their way in a manner worthy of God?*

How does verse 8 express how you can be a co-worker with them?

(Another word for hospitality is "support" in the New American Standard version.)

◆ Read Philippians 4:15-20.

In verse 17, where is the account to which Paul refers?

How did the Philippian Christians invest in that account?

In verse 18, what is the spiritual reality when you give to missionaries to spread the gospel message?

In verse 19, what is the promise from God?

In the context of this entire passage, what is the criterion for God meeting all your needs?



In verse 15, when Paul thanked the Philippians for the gifts they had given to him, notice that he spoke about the *matter of giving and receiving*. He coupled giving with receiving because in the economy of the Kingdom of God, they are connected. Therefore, God will supply all their needs **because** they gave to Paul's missionary efforts. When you give toward God's priorities, you will receive all you need. **When you give, you will receive.** Conversely, receiving is contingent upon giving.



**Ask God to give you the ability to systematically, each month, participate in sending a missionary. You will be investing your money in eternal treasures.**

## Giving to the Poor

*He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done. Proverbs 19:17* When you give to the needy, where are you actually investing your money?

From whom will you receive a return on that investment?

◆➔ **Read Matthew 25:34-40.**

What actions contribute to your inheritance in heaven?

What is the significance (and spiritual reality) of serving those who have needs?





◆➔ **Read Luke 12:33-34.**

How do you invest your treasures in heaven?

When the opportunity arises to give, how can you tell where your heart is, in your material resources or in God?

◆➔ **Read the following passages.** For each one, list how the poor are treated and the result.

	Treatment of Poor	Result
Proverbs 14:31		
Proverbs 21:13		
Proverbs 28:27		

The needy are those who are doing the best they can with what they have, but what they have is insufficient to meet their needs. (Burkett, p. 189) In your giving, consider those who are truly poor by this definition. Find Christian organizations that serve them and operate with the lowest overhead costs. Ask your church or campus pastor for his/her recommendation. Find a way to relieve suffering, especially in other nations that lack the support structures America offers. Look for opportunities to live on less so that those who have so little can simply live. *If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:17-18*

## Giving through Hospitality

*Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 1 Peter 4:8-9*

*Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:13*

*"He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward." Matthew 10:40-42*

*Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2*

- Invite someone new to sit with you at the meeting. Invite him/her out to coffee afterwards.
- Be the first to greet someone you don't know. This is hospitality carried with you wherever you are.
- Include someone new in your conversation cluster after the meeting.
- Invite someone to your home for a simple meal with a few friends you'd like him/her to meet.

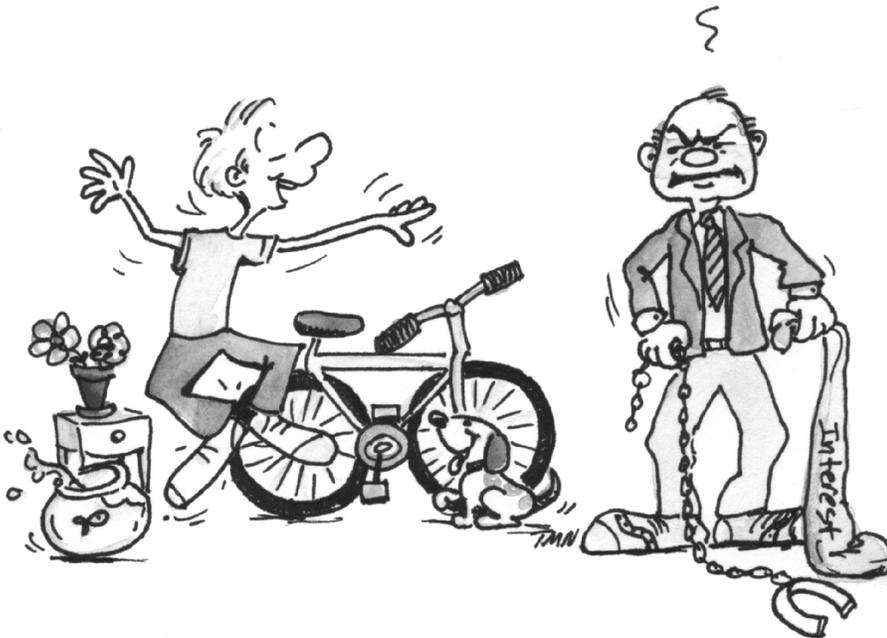


# managing God's RESOURCES UNWISELY

## Debt

Debt is the opposite of saving and planning wisely. If you exercise a little patience and save by "making payments to yourself," you can pay cash for everything for which you would have gone into debt. (The references to debt in this notebook exclude home ownership loans.)

*"The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender." Proverbs 22:7* How does taking out a loan make you a servant to the lender; how is your freedom compromised?



*Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. Romans 13:7-8*

In this passage, what are the debts you are to pay?

Do you pay them?

Are you obeying the command to *let no debt remain outstanding*?

*The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously;... Psalm 37:21*

In this passage, what is the difference between the righteous and the wicked?

Repayment of debts is an issue of integrity. Do not compromise your integrity by not paying back what you owe. You represent Christ before other people.

If you have borrowed from friends, repay what you owe them as quickly as possible. If you must, repay a portion each month. According to Psalm 37:21 above, it is wicked to not repay. Don't love your friends with words only, but DO what is loving by repaying quickly. (Avoid borrowing at all.)

It is unwise to go into debt for items that depreciate in value like clothes, furniture, cars.

## The Credit Card Racket

Avoid the use of credit cards unless you can pay off the entire balance each month. If you are in credit card debt now, determine to charge nothing more until you have brought your balance down to zero.

### Here are some tactics to withstand:

from "There's No Gift with These Cards" by Mary Hunt, *Focus on the Family*, December 1999, pp. 6-7.

**Skip a payment:** If you do it, even with the credit card company's permission, the interest you should have paid will be added to the next month's bill as if you had made a purchase.

**Checks in the mail:** If you sign those blank checks made out to you from your bank or credit card company, you have just accepted a high-interest loan.

**Deferred billing:** If you don't have the cash to make the purchase this month, you won't have it next month either. The retailer will collect interest for months to come.

**Nothing down, no down-payment, no interest:** You sign a high-interest credit application. The retailer agrees to defer interest, downpayment, and payments IF you pay the balance IN FULL by a specific date. If you DON'T pay ALL OF IT, interest kicks in on the whole amount retroactively to the starting date. About 72% of the population fails to make that payment-in-full.



**Minimum payment:** This is simply the credit card company's money-making strategy; it can deceive you into believing you are paying off your debt. By paying the minimum payment and not paying off the whole balance, you are being charged interest on the **WHOLE** amount you charged. Plus, interest is added **DAILY**. And, every new purchase you make on the card is charged interest **IMMEDIATELY** – no grace period from now on. (This information is from *Money Management for College Students* by Larry Burkett, Moody Press, Chicago, 1998, p. 52.)

## Some stories of debt

From Marsha Goetting, PhD, CFP, CFCS Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. Used with permission.

Amy owes \$6,500 on her credit card with an average interest rate of 19%. She makes monthly payments of \$130. It will take her 99 months (about 8 years) to pay off her creditors. She will pay \$6,500 in interest. If she increases her payments to \$230, she will pay \$2,186 in interest and have the loan paid off in three years.

Jim has found a used 4-wheel drive pickup for \$19,500 with an interest rate of 5.4%. He can afford to make monthly payments of \$350. It will take him 64 months (about 5 years) to pay off the loan. He will pay about \$3,000 in interest. If he makes a payment of \$450, he can pay off the loan in four years and pay \$2,240 in interest.

Joni just graduated from college with \$19,000 in student loans. The interest rate is 8.25%. She wants to pay off the loan in 15 years. Her monthly payment will be \$184.33. She will pay about \$14,180 in interest. If she pays off the loan in ten years, she will pay \$8,965 in interest.

(end of Marsha Goetting article)

In these three cases, approximately \$6,500, \$3,000, and \$14,180 could have been used for God's purposes but was spent to support credit institutions instead. The interest you save by staying out of debt could be invested in eternal things like supporting missionaries, going on a mission trip yourself, relieving suffering, helping the poor and those who are in need. Manage thoughtfully God's resources that are under your care.

Are you in debt?

If so, what is your plan for getting free of debt?

How long will it take?

Use the **Budget Sheet** in this section.

## Gambling

There are those who can gamble expecting to lose a predetermined amount of money (destination gambling) and not lose control. However, there are many that are vulnerable to the highly addictive nature of gambling. The system, and industry, is designed to snare and exploit them.

*In their **greed** these teachers will **exploit you with stories they have made up**. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. 2 Peter 2:3 (emphasis mine)*

*With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they **seduce the unstable**; they are **experts in greed** – an accursed brood! 2 Peter 2:14 (emphasis mine)*



Gambling offers the promise of quick gain without work. It promises winning back all your loses if you keep playing. It promises the way out of debt. The effect of these lies combined with the very real adrenaline rush creates an intoxicating and addicting experience.

◆➔ **Read 1 Timothy 6:9-11.**

Notice *want to get rich, love of money, eager for money*. What do these phrases indicate as the focus or motivating force in the person's life? How strong is the motivation?

What costs do they incur as a result?

What are you, as a person of God, to pursue (and *want, love, be eager for*)?

If you pursue the qualities listed here, how would that help you decide the activities in which you will participate, and avoid the costs?

When you gamble, you are investing God's resources in what will rarely bring significant return or value. In addition, you often open the door to unsatisfiable addiction.

*Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Isaiah 55:2*

## Materialism – the Subtle Trap of Greed

“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed...”

➤ **Read Luke 12:13-14.**

Getting your fair share or getting what’s coming to you is not always righteous. Is it more important than the relationship with your brother? If so, it is a *form of greed*.

➤ **Read Luke 12:15.**

According to this verse, how would you evaluate whether you were succumbing to some form of greed?

➤ **Read Luke 12:16-21.** Jesus tells the story of a man whose life consisted in the abundance of his possessions; he was greedy (materialistic).

Was it wrong to have produced a good crop? Was it wrong to store the goods? (Saving is a good thing.)

In verses 19-21, whom did he intend to benefit?

What went wrong for this man? What was wrong with his motivation and perspective? What was wrong with his priorities?

Could he have stored up things **and** been rich toward God? How?

This man thought his life consisted in his possessions -- he was rich toward himself -- he had invested in himself. He discovered, however, that life actually consisted of what is invested (money, as well as time and energy) in God and His priorities. When he died, he had nothing invested in eternal treasures. Since real life consists of being *rich toward God*, he had no life. Even though he had *prepared it for himself*, he couldn't take it with him.... His heart was in the wrong place.

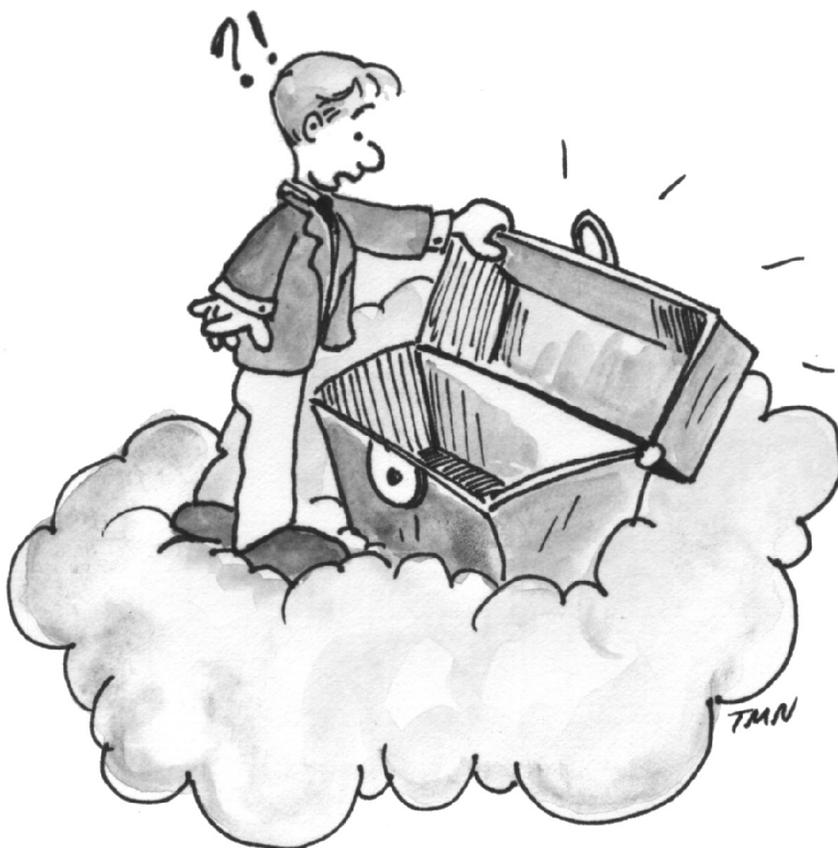
➔ **Read Luke 12:29-34.** Note the references to your heart.

The issue in this chapter is not how much or how little money and possessions you have. The issue is where your heart is; what your motivation, focus, and priorities are.

How does this passage say to keep your heart free from what *the pagan world runs after*, the things this world says are important?

Where you want your heart to stay is where you must invest your material goods.

Stay true in your heart to the values and priorities of the kingdom of God. Maintain a generous, giving lifestyle. Invest in eternity. Be rich toward God.



# checklist for finding FREEDOM FROM YOUR FINANCIAL PAST

## Directions

Through repentance, confession, and making restitution, you can find freedom from the financial wrongs you have done.

**Repentance** is a change of mind, a turning around. It is the realization and conviction that what you have done is wrong and you need to stop doing it.

On a sheet of paper, for each question, list any wrongs you have done. Beside them, write your plan of restitution.

**Confession** is admitting to God and a person (where appropriate) the wrong you have done and then asking for forgiveness.

Confess each wrong to God and ask Him to forgive you. Write the names of people you have wronged. Make a plan to contact them and ask their forgiveness as you make restitution.

**Restitution** is the action you take to right the harm you have done. Zachaeus repented of stealing and made restitution. *But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."* Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Luke 19:8-10 (emphasis mine)

Begin making restitution immediately. Work it into your **Budget Sheet**.

Through repentance, confession, and restitution, your conscience becomes clear of guilt and you are free to obey Jesus as He helps you begin to change habit patterns. You are in a place of receiving God's forgiveness and walking in integrity with people.



## The Checklist

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Whom You Wronged      Restitution Plan

- ✓ Have you borrowed money and not paid it back?
- ✓ Have you stolen money or things from anyone?
- ✓ Are you faithfully tithing?
- ✓ Are you giving some of your resources to a missionary and/or to the poor?
- ✓ Do you pay your bills on time? This includes rent.
- ✓ Have you been honest when paying your taxes?
- ✓ Have you spent money thoughtlessly or carelessly?
- ✓ Have you been selfish or stingy with your money or possessions?
- ✓ Are you content with what you have?
- ✓ Are you grateful for what you have?

## Directions

You are the manager of the resources God has entrusted to you. They are not yours; they are His. It is your responsibility to conscientiously evaluate how to use them. Make it a part of your lifestyle to ask God how He wants you to use the money you spend each day. Ask Him to give you wisdom. Then listen for it and obey.

Make two copies of this Budget Sheet.

On one copy, record everything you spend in each category during the first two weeks after you receive your income.

On the second copy, after the two-week evaluation time is completed, create a budget plan that reflects God's priorities for handling the money God has entrusted to you.

If you are in debt, devise a monthly payment plan to liquidate your debts as soon as possible. Decide what things you are willing to live without in order to achieve this goal. Let your budget reflect this.

Mentally prepare yourself for a change of lifestyle. Pray for God's help to change the way you spend money.

Ask someone who will hold you accountable to go through your budget with you and help you prioritize each month's expenses. When you pay your bills each month, make your first payment to God:

- **Give what God asks first: your tithe and other giving.**
- **Next, fulfill all your other obligations to people: rent, phone, debts.**
- **Put something in savings, no matter how small.**
- **Then, spend to meet your needs.**

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Keep your Budget Sheet wherever you reconcile your checkbook monthly so you can see if you are operating within the amounts you budgeted for each category.

One way to keep track is to note in your checkbook ledger or check memo from what category that expenditure was taken.

If you use cash for purchases like pop, eating out, or movies, carry your month's allotment in a separate place in your wallet and stop spending when it runs out.



# Budget Sheet

---

## Income

### Gross Income per Month

Wages \_\_\_\_\_

Interest \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_

Tithe 10% on gross - \_\_\_\_\_

= \_\_\_\_\_

Taxes withheld - \_\_\_\_\_

Total Spendable Income = \_\_\_\_\_

Now, write this amount at end of Budget Sheet.

## Monthly Expenses

Other Giving \_\_\_\_\_ write here → \_\_\_\_\_

### Housing

Rent/Mortgage \_\_\_\_\_

Utilities \_\_\_\_\_

Garbage \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Internet \_\_\_\_\_

Cable TV \_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_ write here → \_\_\_\_\_

**Debt** (excluding mortgage)

Credit Cards \_\_\_\_\_

Car Loan \_\_\_\_\_

School Loans \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_ write here → \_\_\_\_\_

**Food**

Groceries \_\_\_\_\_

Snacks/Coffee \_\_\_\_\_

Lunches Out \_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_ write here → \_\_\_\_\_

**Transportation**

Gas \_\_\_\_\_

Oil \_\_\_\_\_

Public Transportation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_ write here → \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Stuff**

Laundry \_\_\_\_\_

Household Supplies \_\_\_\_\_

Toiletries \_\_\_\_\_

Hair Cuts \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly Dues \_\_\_\_\_

Gifts/Cards \_\_\_\_\_

Child Care \_\_\_\_\_

Clothing/Accessories \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_ write here → \_\_\_\_\_

## Entertainment

Restaurants \_\_\_\_\_  
Movies, videos \_\_\_\_\_  
Music \_\_\_\_\_  
Hobbies, pets \_\_\_\_\_  
Events, concerts \_\_\_\_\_  
Recreation equipment \_\_\_\_\_  
Travel/Vacations \_\_\_\_\_  
Child Care \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_ write here → \_\_\_\_\_

## Total Monthly Expenses

= \_\_\_\_\_

Now, write this amount at end of Budget Sheet.

## Monthly Installments toward Future Expenses

Prepare for future expenditures: for example, semi-annual insurance payments or tuition due at the beginning of the semester. Divide the price or the payment by the number of months before it is due. For instance, divide a once-a-year payment by 12. Put that amount in savings each month so that you will have the full amount when the bill comes due.

Prepare for probable future expenditures: for example, car repairs, new contacts or glasses, or travel plans. Put some in savings each month so you have the money when you need it.

Example:

Car License  $\$120 \div 12 = \$10$  per month

## School

Tuition/Fees \_\_\_\_\_  
Lab Fees \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Fees \_\_\_\_\_  
Books/Supplies \_\_\_\_\_  
Meal Plan \_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_ write here → \_\_\_\_\_

### Transportation

Car Repairs \_\_\_\_\_

Car Replacement \_\_\_\_\_

License \_\_\_\_\_

Parking Fees \_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_ write here → \_\_\_\_\_

### Insurance

Home/Renter's \_\_\_\_\_

Medical \_\_\_\_\_

(if not provided by employer)

Car \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_ write here → \_\_\_\_\_

### Medical

Doctor \_\_\_\_\_

Dentist \_\_\_\_\_

Eye Doctor \_\_\_\_\_

Glasses/Contacts \_\_\_\_\_

Prescriptions \_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_ write here → \_\_\_\_\_

### Other Stuff

Furnishings \_\_\_\_\_

Appliances \_\_\_\_\_

Subscriptions \_\_\_\_\_

Clothing \_\_\_\_\_

Christmas \_\_\_\_\_

Travel/Missions \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_ write here → \_\_\_\_\_

**Someday Maybe**

Property Taxes \_\_\_\_\_

Home Maintenance \_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_ write here → \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Monthly Installments** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Monthly Expenses** + \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total Expenses** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Spendable Income** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total Expenses** - \_\_\_\_\_

**Good News or Bad News** \_\_\_\_\_



# some practical ways TO SAVE MONEY

- Live with multiple roommates and split the cost of living.
- Buy clothes at Salvation Army instead of The Bon.
- Pick up household items at garage sales.
- Walk or bike instead of driving.
- Get along without a car.
- Ask for practical things for your birthday or Christmas. "I can use some tires for my car; clothes; toiletries; money; long distance prepaid card."
- Use a less expensive internet provider.
- Cook food at home instead of going out to eat.
- When you go to a restaurant, split the entree with a friend.
- Turn the heat down and wear a sweatshirt.
- Carpool home for the holidays - check the ride board at college.
- Don't look at catalogs or go window shopping for recreation. You may end up buying something a marketer says you "need." (One of the 10 Commandments addresses coveting.)
- Borrow tapes, CDs, books, and movies instead of buying them yourself. Utilize the public library - they have many of these.
- When you own a home or are renting - insulate the hot water heater.
- Take short showers.
- Make sure you have a full load for laundry.
- Dry your clothes outside when possible.
- Take your lunch instead of buying it.
- Minimize buying prepared foods; make meals from scratch as much as possible. It's cheaper and more nutritious.

## Sources

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Larry Burkett, *The Word on Finances*, Moody Press, Chicago, 1994.

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Financial seminars at University Christian Ministries (Chi Alpha), Western Washington University, Bellingham.

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Mary Hunt, "There's No Gift With These Cards," *Focus on the Family*, December, 1999, pp.6-7.

# list of SCRIPTURES

## ➔ Two Kingdoms

Matthew 6:24                      can't serve God and money  
1 John 2:15-17                    don't love the world

## ➔ Money Earning Principles

Genesis 3:19                        by the sweat of your brow...  
Proverbs 12:11                    He who works the land will have abundant food  
Proverbs 12:24                    diligent hands will rule  
Proverbs 13:11                    dishonest money dwindles away  
Proverbs 21:5                      the plans of the diligent lead to profit

## ➔ God's Money/You are Steward

Genesis 1:26                        people are stewards of earth  
Psalm 24:1-2                      earth is the Lord's  
Luke 12:42-48                    steward in charge of possessions, much given, much required

## ➔ Saving

Proverbs 6:6-7                    example of ant storing up

## ➔ Giving

Proverbs 11:24-25                give freely, much gain  
Matthew 6:19-20                 treasures in heaven  
Matthew 19:21-29                rich man wouldn't sell possessions, left all, receive 100 times  
Mark 10:28-30                    left everything to follow Jesus, receive 100 times  
Luke 6:38                          give and given to you  
Luke 14:12-14                    give to those who cannot repay, repaid at resurrection  
Acts 20:35                        more blessed to give than to receive  
1 Timothy 6:17-19                rich should be generous, eternal treasures

## ➔ Giving Tithe

<b>Genesis 28:20-22</b>	Jacob tithes as thanks to God
<b>Leviticus 27:30-34</b>	explanation of tithe
<b>Numbers 18:21</b>	used for support of Levites
<b>2 Chronicles 31:4-6</b>	collecting the tithe
<b>Nehemiah 13:10-12</b>	collecting the tithes
<b>Psalms 96:8</b>	offerings
<b>Proverbs 3:9-10</b>	honor God with first fruits
<b>Malachi 3:8-12</b>	stealing the tithe from God
<b>Matthew 23:23</b>	gave a tenth, but neglected justice, mercy and faithfulness.

## ➔ Giving to Missionaries

<b>1 Corinthians 9:7-18</b>	support full-time workers
<b>1 Corinthians 16:1-3</b>	same
<b>Galatians 6:6</b>	receives instruction in word share with instructor
<b>Philippians 4:15-20</b>	giving to missionaries adds to your heavenly account
<b>Titus 3:13-14</b>	supply all needs of full-time workers
<b>3 John 1:5-8</b>	partner with them when you support them

## ➔ Giving to Poor

<b>Deuteronomy 15:1-11</b>	generous to poor, not tight-fisted, open-handed
<b>Esther 9:20-22</b>	celebrated with feasts and gifts to poor
<b>Proverbs 14:31</b>	oppress poor, contempt for God, kindness honors God
<b>Proverbs 19:17</b>	kind to poor, lend to Lord
<b>Proverbs 21:13</b>	don't shut ear to poor
<b>Proverbs 22:16</b>	oppresses the poor to increase his wealth, comes to poverty.
<b>Proverbs 28:27</b>	gives to poor lacks nothing
<b>Proverbs 29:7</b>	justice for poor
<b>Proverbs 31:20</b>	opens arms to the poor, extends her hands to needy.
<b>Isaiah 58:6-7</b>	fast chosen by Lord to feed hungry, etc.
<b>Matthew 6:1-4</b>	when give to needy, don't let right hand know what left does
<b>Matthew 25:34-40</b>	when feed hungry, do it to Jesus

**Luke 12:33-34**

**Galatians 2:10**

**1 Timothy 5:4-5,8,16**

**James 1:27**

**James 2:15-16**

**1 John 3:17-18**

give to poor, treasures in heaven

remember the poor

provide for own family, parents, widows

true religion to help widows etc.

don't say be warmed and fed, love in action

see brother in need

## ➔ Hospitality

**Matthew 10:40-42**

**Romans 12:13**

**Hebrews 13:2**

**1 Peter 4:8-9**

receive me, receive him who sent me, cup of water

practice hospitality.

entertain strangers, some entertained angels

offer hospitality without grumbling.

## ➔ Giving Generously

**Psalms 112:5**

**Romans 15:25-28**

**2 Corinthians 8 and 9**

**2 Corinthians 8:1-5**

**2 Corinthians 9:6-11**

good to be generous

giving happily

give generously

poor that give generously

sow generously, reap generously, so can give

## ➔ Laziness

**Proverbs 12:24**

**2 Thessalonians 3:10**

diligent hands rule

don't work, don't eat

## ➔ Debt

**Psalms 37:21**

**Proverbs 22:7**

**Romans 13:7-8**

wicked borrow and don't repay

borrower servant of lender

pay what owe, taxes, honor, love

## ➔ Gambling

**Proverbs 28:20, 22**

**Isaiah 55:2**

eager to get rich, poverty awaits him; punished

buy what is not bread

**1 Timothy 6:9-11**

love of money

**2 Peter 2:3,14**

greedy exploit, seduce unstable

## ➔ **Materialism/Greed**

**Deuteronomy 8:10-20**

prosper, forget Lord, think your power did it

**Ecclesiastes 5:10-14ff**

love money, never enough

**Matthew 6:22-34**

don't worry about eat/drink, seek kingdom

**Mark 4:18-19**

deceitfulness of wealth, desires for things choke word

**Luke 12:13-21**

life in his possessions, not rich toward God

**Luke 12:29-34**

don't set heart on material things, treasures in heaven

**Colossians 3:1-7**

set minds on above, no greed

**1 Timothy 6:6-11**

love of money

## ➔ **Integrity**

**Proverbs 16:8**

better little with righteousness than much with injustice.

**Proverbs 19:1**

better poor man whose walk is blameless

**Proverbs 22:1**

good name more desirable than great riches

**Malachi 3:5**

testify against defraud of wages, oppress the widows, aliens, etc.