

New Believer Lesson- What the Bible says about Money

What does God's word say about Money? Does it speak directly about how we should spend our money, give to God and to others? Does God really care what I do with my money?

Well the Bible contains about 2,350 verses on money. 15% of the Bible is about money/possessions, that's more than any other single topic including Heaven, Hell, faith or prayer!

Let us remember that God owns it all, our money, possessions, our stuff and none of us "owns" anything we have. If we look at it from God's perspective we would covet things others have less!!

God has given each of us an opportunity to earn a living, and earn money with the prospect of giving God his required portion each time.

Acts 20:35- says it is more blessed to give than receive...Because God gives us everything we have for our enjoyment, but not to keep so tightly we forget to share it with God and others.

God has many requirements and expects us to be accountable to him for how we spend our money and how we use it to further his Kingdom. The Bible says that God own its all-

Psalm 50:10 -God says-" for every animal is mine and the cattle on a thousand hills... [That's a lot of beef]

According to the Bible we are caretakers of God's resources. Nothing illustrates this better than

Psalm 50: 7-15 this Psalm tells us the following:

1. The earth is the Lords- everything is His period!!
2. All the animals are his- the objects that earn us money are His!
3. All Gold, Silver and Money, possessions are created for him by him and belong to God
4. He owns everything, we are caretakers, and he needs NOTHING FROM US OR ANYONE!

SO what else does the Bible say about Money

The LORD sends poverty and wealth he humbles and he exalts..." (**1 Samuel 2:7**).

Remember that the Lord can help you. Even if you are poor to the things of the world, you may still be rich in Spirit!!

Below are many verses that illustrate giving is Gods design:

-King Solomon's Proverbs on Money- said to be the wisest man of the time!

Note- [the abbreviation here pr is short for Proverbs]

Pr.10:4

Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth. (NIV)

Pr.10:15

The wealth of the rich is their fortified city, but poverty is the ruin of the poor. (NIV)

The Blessing of the Lord Alone brings Wealth

Pr. 10:22

The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it. (NIV)

Pr.11:4

Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. (NIV)

Pr.11:16

A kindhearted woman gains respect, but ruthless men gain only wealth. (NIV)

Pr.11:28

Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf. (NIV)

Pr.13:8

A man's riches may ransom his life, but a poor man hears no threat. (NIV)

Pr.13:18

He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored. (NIV)

Pr.13:22

A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous. (NIV)

Pr.13:23

A poor man's field may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away. (NIV)

Pr.13:25

The righteous eat to their hearts' content, but the stomach of the wicked goes hungry. (NIV)

Pr.14:20

The poor are shunned even by their neighbors, but the rich have many friends. (NIV)

Pr.14:23

All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty. (NIV)

The Rich and Poor

Pr 22:7

The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender. (NIV)

Pr.22:9

A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor. (NIV)

Pr.22:16

He who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and he who gives gifts to the rich—both come to poverty. (NIV)

Pr.22:22-23

Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, 23 for the LORD will take up their case and will plunder those under them. (NIV)

Jesus often used a parable in Bible times to illustrate a point, the story in Matt 25 says how money can affect our outcome in life.

1. Parable of the Loaned Money - Matthew 25:14-30. - read

This parable teaches us that bringing our finances under Christ's Lordship is one of the most basic ingredients for having His Kingdom rule and authority established in our lives. In this parable, we must ask ourselves the question, "What is Jesus teaching us?" Is it about how well we make financial investments or is it how well we manage and use what He has given to us for the glory of His Kingdom? Clearly all wealth comes from the hand of God. Jesus here is showing this most effectively. He shows us we must be accountable, responsible and faithful in all our giving and all our use of money so we will not be found to be a foolish steward with Gods resources.

2. **Matthew 6:21** "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

We must ask ourselves are we tempted by the treasures we possess. Do we must see ourselves as being caught between the struggle of how we use our money and how God wants us to use it? Satan uses money to tempt us as it can bring power and we quickly find a love for money that can rule our hearts. But God wants his rule and authority in the hearts of mankind and God is using the kingdom truth of stewardship to instill His rule and authority in our hearts. The Bible tells us in the last days men shall be lovers of money. Jesus says, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves bread in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven..." versed illustrated above...

3. **The Love of Money: I Timothy 6:10**

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. There's nothing sinful about having money, but there is a definite word of Caution in this verse

The Bible says "Whoever loves money never has enough" {**Ecces 5:10**}. The problem is not money. The Bible points out that money isn't the root of evil but "the love of money is:" God wants us to find our purpose, security, and hope in Him not in money that is so uncertain.

4. **James 4:1** says, "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Do they not come from your own desires that battle within you? You want something, but don't get it, so you kill and you covet. You can't have what you want so you quarrel and fight."

Does Money run your life or has money become your god!!

Do you covet the possessions of others, or are you content with what God has given you?

Hebrews 13:5 says...we are to be content with what we have...

So what should be given to God?

Tithe- what is the tithe? Simply put the tithe is a tenth of our income given back to God for the work of his Kingdom...it should be designated to the work of his house. A tenth means 10% of whatever we earn off the top of our income. We must give God the first offering not the last, taken out of the first part of our income, honoring God with our First fruits according to **Proverbs 3:9-10**

1. In the book of Malachi we are told a tenth was a requirement of the people of the time to show God their Worship of Giving to him
2. **Leviticus 27:30** - says that a tithe of everything from the land...to the fruit itself belongs to God.
3. **Malachi 3:8-9**- says a tithe was due God... not to give God his tithe was Robbing Him.
Malachi 3: v-8 "will a man rob God, yet you rob me... tithes and offering"
4. The Bible commands us to bring the "WHOLE TITHE" into the storehouse, we must give unselfishly to further his Kingdom because without God we all would have nothing.

GIVING IS AN ATTITUDE OF THE HEART!!!

1. We should never give reluctantly or out of what's left?
2. We must not question why we give to God, because it's part of our worship to him
3. We must trust God in our giving even if we think we can't afford to give.

Luke 21: 1-4 - speaks of the widow who gave from all she had to live on

4. If your attitude is to give to be blessed you have lost the true meaning of sacrificial giving!!

There are Principles Outlined in Scripture that illustrate this:

Principle #1

2 Corinthians 9:6 says-" whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly but whoever sows generously reaps generously"...NIV

We must remember what we give to God is part of our worship and devotion and it's given as a requirement of our service to him. We give because God loves us and we are to love him in all areas of our lives, being committed and surrendered to him even in our giving!

Remember: God loves a cheerful giver- 2 Corinthians 9:7

Principle #2

Malachi 3:10- bring the "whole tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in my house"

God purposely wants you to give so in his perfect timing and will He can bless your effects.

God's Plan- Because of his Principles we give

1. We give to God as obedience as his servant to support the work of God-
Numbers 18:21
2. We are commanded to help the work of the church and his work in the world
3. We are to be a generous giver- **2 Corinthians 9:7b**
4. WE must give without reservation, for God has given it to us and we cannot
out give God.

Further thoughts on Giving

From time to time many people have seen fit to give to ministries that are outside the church, some even have placed tithe in that ministry. Is that acceptable?

Giving to others is acceptable based on the principles of scripture listed above and with a few thoughts in mind:

1. Make sure that ministry is accountable, to a board, a head office, or a steering committee that will keep the ministry accountable
2. Accountability to the CRA- a good rule of thumb is to ensure the ministry is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency as a Charitable Organization so all funds are posted on the Website of the CRA. [or the local Gov't in your area]
3. Make sure that the ministry supports the work of the local church and believes in the full account of Gospel- preaching the life, death and resurrection of Christ in its entirety to ensure all aspects of Scripture are followed
4. That the Lord is in control of the ministry and the will of God is carried out in all that is done!!

Remember this comment:

We must use well what God has entrusted to us, we must use our time, talents and

Treasures to serve God in all we do!!

Questions for the Lesson:

1. In the Gospel of Luke what kind of giving is really blessed? **Luke 21:1-4**
2. As stated earlier what is promised in the book of Malachi to those that tithe? **Malachi 3:10-11**
3. What should my attitude be towards giving to God? **2 Corinthians 9:7**
4. Now that we have learned that God blesses the cheerful giver, what other ways does he bless Us? - **2 Corinthians 9:8-11**
5. If the Bible really does teach that I should support the work of the local church does it also tell us that the Pastor/Evangelist is included in that as well? **1 Corinthians 9:14 Galatians 6:6**
6. In the gospel of Luke what does it say was the main reason the man went to Hell instead of Heaven?
Luke 16:19-31
A. Was it money alone? B. The Love of Money? C. Ignorance of the Word spoken to Him?
7. What does the Bible say the love of Money is? **1 Timothy 6:10**

Lesson Prepared Compliments of Souls for Christ Ministries