

# **Biblical Perspectives On Money**

## **Faith Based Mentoring Ministries – July 5, 2021**

### **Two questions:**

1. How did you learn how to handle money or make money decisions?
2. On a scale of one to ten with ten being excellent, how good are you at managing money?

### **<START RECORDING>**

I am going to talk about what the Bible says about money. I will go very quickly through this. This isn't designed to teach you all you need to know but to inspire you to search and study so you can change in how you view money and therefore make different decisions in regards to money.

### **My Vision for Money**

- Have the basics of life – living, transportation, food, clothes
- Be able to easily pay my bills
- Take care of my family
- Save for things and the future
- Handle emergencies
- Give to help others

### **Why talk about money?**

- Money is important
  - 2,500+ verses about money/possessions in the Bible. Jesus spent 15% of His Words in the Bible talking about money/possessions. If it is important to Him, it should be important to me and you.
  - Money gives you options.
  - Having money affects: Where you live. Where you go. How you get there. How you spend your time. What you eat. What you wear. How you help others. What happens when emergencies come up. If you get extra money earned from savings. How you spend your time (free time to do things you enjoy). Some search for our significance/meaning in money and things.

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- Lack of money: Limits where you live. Where you go. How you get there. What you worry about. How you spend your time. How you help others. How much you need to ask others for help. What happens when emergencies come up. Lack of money earned from savings. How you spend your time? (overtime, more jobs, hustling, paying debts). It affects our significance/meaning when we struggle with money.
- Money affects whether you generally help others or you generally need others to help you.
- Lack of money can dominate your thoughts and activities. Too much money can dominate your thoughts and activities.
- How you have done with money affects who will loan you money, how much they will loan and what interest is required.
- Can you think of other ways money provides options? Affects our lives?
- Show me your checkbook and calendar and I'll show you who you are or what's important to you.
- God loves us and wants us to live a better life here on earth and for eternity. We/I care about you and since money is important and can have a big impact on your life, we/I want you to have the best knowledge and therefore opportunity. Having a proper view of money is very important because it affects greatly how we live. God wants to teach you so you can do better.

#### **Why use the Bible to learn about money?**

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT2)** <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup> God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. God is the expert about everything

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- We can learn a lot from God's instructions in the Bible. About what is true and that includes money. Having a proper view of money can equip us to do every good work.
- The Creator of everything is wanting to share His wisdom with us because He loves us. We can learn from Him. He is the expert on how we should look at money. Do we really think we know better than God or about anything more than God for that matter? (That is how we act)
- Money is not the only thing God is the expert on. What are some of the jobs you have? He is the best person on IBM software licensing. He is the best about relationships, sex, woodworking, basketball, auto mechanics, home repair, taxes, criminal defense – everything. There is nothing He is not the best at. We are foolish if we don't try and learn from Him and the Bible is a great source of wisdom.
- **Romans 12:2 (NLT2)** <sup>2</sup> Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.
  - The world teaches us other things about money which are often lies and we need to be transformed by what God teaches.
  - Many of you may think this is just stuff for Monday meetings – I know what is really going on. Life is about things. The golden rule is he who has the gold makes the rules. I'll listen but nothing will change because I am smarter than God who created all of this (you won't say the last part but that is what you are really saying with your actions).
- **Proverbs 1:1-4 (NLT2)** <sup>1</sup> These are the proverbs of Solomon, David's son, king of Israel. <sup>2</sup> Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise. <sup>3</sup> Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair. <sup>4</sup> These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young.
  - If you think you know everything or don't need to know more, you don't know even the basics. You will be stuck with bad habits,

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actions, reactions and behaviors – you will be stuck with the consequences of bad decisions. The wise/good person will seek knowledge/wisdom and change their whole life and will continue to reap the benefits. Today, I hope you can get some wisdom about money and keep on a path of learning and growing – changing!

- Change – do things differently – live differently here and for eternity.
- Are there ways you can improve in regards to money or are you comfortable with what you know and how much money you have and what you spend it on?

#### **What should you expect to get out of this?**

- This is just an overview – you must follow up
- There are so many very good opinions with practical advice that you can consider. Seek and work to find what works well for you which will require change.
- Dave Ramsey's course – 9 weeks of 1.5 hours each
- Lots of books you can read
- This can get you started but if you want to change, you will have to follow up
- General principles – not specific advice. It won't tell you specifically:
  - Don't buy this car but buy that car.
  - Buy this house and not this house or this size house
  - Save a specific percent.
  - Never have debt of more than ???.
  - Don't go to a casino or play the lottery.
  - Never pay a loan percentage of x% or higher
  - Pay 10% tithe of your gross or your net.
  - None of these or other specifics but general principles that you can ponder and pray on and seek wisdom how they apply to your specific situations. Just because it doesn't give specifics, you will have to apply the principles to specifics.

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- I am not an expert at implementing everything about Biblical knowledge in regards to money. I have a lot to learn. I learned a lot before, more as I prepared this and need to continue to learn for the rest of my life.
- Audio and my notes will be on our website (which I am in the process of redoing)

Most if not all have not studied how to handle money. They pick it up from people around them. One person said “I am not good at money because my grandfather wasn’t.” I never taught my children about money but they watched me I guess because they are all very good with money. Since we probably didn’t learn best practices from a course but just by who we were with, we have the opportunity to learn new things and make changes and make better money decisions. If you want that, please engage for the next two weeks.

This week I will talk about Biblical principles (just scratching the surface or getting you started – you will need to follow up) and next week I will give you practical advice from my experience.

The Bible talks a lot about money. I have read that there are over 2,500 verses in the Bible about money and I thought we could go over each one of them tonight. No – we pick some and see what we can learn to help us live wiser lives here on earth. As I was preparing for this, I read many, many verses and just picked a few.

#### **Let’s get started...**

**Psalm 24:1 (NLT2)** <sup>1</sup>The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.

- God created and owns everything. We are stewards. We think we own things but we don’t. Everything we have is a blessing and everything can be taken away quickly – it is not ours.

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**Matthew 6:25-27 (NLT2)** <sup>25</sup> “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are?

<sup>27</sup> Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

- Don’t worry about your basic needs. Be responsible but know that God can and will take care of you. He may not supply your wants but will take care of your needs.

**1 Timothy 6:10 (NLT2)** <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

- It’s not money that is the root of all evil. It is the love of money. If you love money, you won’t be loving what God wants you to love – God and others. Loving and focusing on money is distracting and will cause us to compromise and destroy ourselves and relationships.
- It is always good to stop and examine what you love. Ask people close to you what your life tells them you love.

**1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NLT2)** <sup>17</sup> Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. <sup>19</sup> By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

- Sometimes we get security from money and think we are in control. Sometimes we get our significance from money – think we are good because we have money. Money is not something to base your significance or security on – it is unreliable. Use our money to do good.

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Be generous which will store us real treasure in heaven (if you are a Christian).

**Proverbs 30:8-9 (NLT2)** <sup>8</sup> First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. <sup>9</sup> For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, “Who is the LORD?” And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God’s holy name.

- First, don’t tell lies. That is another lesson. There are downsides to being rich and downsides to being in poverty.

**Luke 12:13-21 (NLT2)** <sup>13</sup> Then someone called from the crowd, “Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father’s estate with me.” <sup>14</sup> Jesus replied, “Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?” <sup>15</sup> Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.” <sup>16</sup> Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. <sup>17</sup> He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ <sup>18</sup> Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. <sup>19</sup> And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!”’ <sup>20</sup> “But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’ <sup>21</sup> “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”

- This guy was meeting Jesus – God on earth. If you had a chance to talk to Jesus, what would you ask Him? This guy was greedy which greed means – “wants more”. What a waste. We waste our lives also not focusing on loving God and people but on things.
- “Life is not measured by how much you own.” You know what often happens to all the valuable things a person collects after they die? They bring a dumpster to the house and fill it up with all those “valuable” things. We can’t take any of it with us.

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- Life is short. Don't focus on collecting things here on earth but focus on having a rich relationship with God.

**Ecclesiastes 5:10-11 (NLT2)** <sup>10</sup> Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness! <sup>11</sup> The more you have, the more people come to help you spend it. So what good is wealth—except perhaps to watch it slip through your fingers!

- You will never have enough money. With bad habits and wrong focus, the more money you make, the more you will spend. I know two guys making over \$20/hour and they don't have much money saved. I was reading a book by a financial person who said he had a client that made \$600,000/year and was spending more than that each year. You will never have enough money.
- Money does not bring happiness. It does not. It just makes us more of what we really are. If you are mean and stingy, you will be more so. If you are generous, you will be more so. Wealth will slip through your fingers.

**Proverbs 3:9-10 (NLT2)** <sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. <sup>10</sup> Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

- Use your money to serve God and He'll reward you.

**Proverbs 22:7 (NLT2)** <sup>7</sup> Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender.

- Debt: the borrower is the servant of the lender – who wants to be a servant. The Bible doesn't say never to borrow but it never says that borrowing is good – debt is never encouraged but we are cautioned about borrowing. Be very careful with borrowing – especially for things that are luxuries. Interest is expensive. Often the reason one needs to borrow (poor decisions/planning) is also the reason that it is difficult to pay the money back. If you are spending too much and need to borrow, you need to fix the spending issue. Borrowing will only make it worse.



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**Romans 13:7 (NLT2)** <sup>7</sup> Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

- God endorses the authority of government. We are to respect them and obey the laws – even if we don't like them. We are to pay taxes even if we don't like them. Respect the authority of the government.

**Philippians 4:11-12 (NLT2)** <sup>11</sup> Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. <sup>12</sup> I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.

- You are probably going to have times of prosperity and times of less money. If your focus isn't on how much you have, your emotional health won't vary much which is the definition of contentment. If you focus on money and things go bad, you won't still be content. Contentment is good

**Proverbs 13:20 (NLT2)** <sup>20</sup> Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.

- You may think that this is a funny money verse. Remember, you become like those you hang out with. How do your friends do with money? What is important to them? Cars? Drugs? Jordan sneakers? God? Helping others? Investing to get a skill? Borrowing to get the latest ???? Show me your friends and I'll show you your future. Who you hang with affects what you do with your money. Who do you hang with and how are they affecting you?

**Proverbs 21:5 (NLT2)** <sup>5</sup> Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

- There are no good shortcuts. Planning results in habits. Good habits require saying no to what you want today so you can have what you

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want in the future. Borrowing or buying expensive wants you can't afford leads to poverty. Your freedom to get what you wish for now will eliminate your freedom to have good things that require saving for. Plan ahead and don't be impulsive.

**Proverbs 15:22 (NLT2)** <sup>22</sup> Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success.

- Ask other more experienced people who are doing things right for advice. People love to help others. Life is a team sport.

**Matthew 6:19-21 (NLT2)** <sup>19</sup> “Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

- What are your treasures? What would wreck your life if they were gone. If they are worldly things, I am sorry but some day they will be gone.
- Where is your heart? It should not be in things but in God. He will never disappoint even when hard times come. Focus on loving God and loving others.
- Focus not on feeling good but on feeling good about doing good. Feeling good will never last all the time. Feeling good about doing good always lasts.

**Matthew 6:31-33 (NLT2)** <sup>31</sup> “So don't worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. <sup>33</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

- Worrying only makes things worse. Trust God and don't worry. Focus on seeking God and loving others – see first the Kingdom of God and all else will be ok.

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**Deuteronomy 8:18 (NLT2)** <sup>18</sup> Remember the LORD your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath.

- God gives you the power and ability to make money and be successful. Always be thankful.

**Matthew 6:24 (NLT2)** <sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

- Loving money will take you in a whole different direction than loving God. It will put your focus on you and it is not about us. It will make us compromise and sacrifice our relationship with God and others and leave us empty. Only love God.

**Proverbs 13:11 (NLT2)** <sup>11</sup> Wealth from get-rich-quick schemes quickly disappears; wealth from hard work grows over time.

- Get rich can also be illegal schemes. There are no shortcuts. You must develop good habits over time to have real wealth.

**Luke 14:28 (NLT2)** <sup>28</sup> “But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?

- Spend less than you make. This takes planning. Either make more or spend less but long term, spending more than you make is easy but won’t work. Know what your needs are, try and reduce them and make sure your income covers. Increase your income or decrease your spending. Plan – Budget!

**Proverbs 30:24-25 (NLT2)** <sup>24</sup> There are four things on earth that are small but unusually wise: <sup>25</sup> Ants—they aren’t strong, but they store up food all summer.

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- You are wise (like the ant) to save for a rainy day because I guarantee it will rain. I guarantee it.

**1 Timothy 5:8 (NLT2)** <sup>8</sup> But those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers.

- Take care of your family. Pay child support. Help your parents without enabling them. If you have family, take care of them.

**Proverbs 22:26-27 (NLT2)** <sup>26</sup> Don't agree to guarantee another person's debt or put up security for someone else. <sup>27</sup> If you can't pay it, even your bed will be snatched from under you.

- Don't cosign for someone unless you are able to take full responsibility and can give this as a gift.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-9 (NLT2)** <sup>6</sup> Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. <sup>7</sup> You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. **"For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."** <sup>8</sup> And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. <sup>9</sup> As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever."

- God loves a cheerful giver. I want to be loved by God. How do I become a cheerful giver. I love loving God more than I love money. I realize money is a means to serve God and not an end. I am happy to give because I am happy to please and help God. Are you a cheerful giver?

**Acts 20:35 (NLT2)** <sup>35</sup> And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

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- Lots of generous people here and we all know it is easier to give than to have people give to us (or it should be).

**Matthew 6:1-4 (NLT2)** <sup>1</sup> “Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup> When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. <sup>4</sup> Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

- Self explanatory. Give because it is right and not to draw attention to yourself.

Any surprises in these verses? Did you know the Bible talked about all these topics and more?

#### **Summarize what the Bible teaches about money?**

- Love God and others. Money is not an end in itself but a means to help us love God and others. Money is important because it can help but it also had its dangers that we must be aware of if we love or focus on money.

**Matthew 6:24 (NLT2)** <sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

If you have not accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you are serving something else besides God. You may implement a few of these principles but you will struggle unless you have God as your Master. You can’t serve both God and money or God and anything else. By surrendering your will and accepting His amazing gift of dying on the cross for your sins, the Spirit of

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Jesus will come and live inside you and help you look at money different and slowly change you from the inside so you will follow the truth of God instead of the lies of the world. If you haven't done that, I encourage you to wrestle with the question why not?

Questions? Comments?